A CENTURY OF SERVICE

O. E. KRIEGE

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF
KINGDOM SERVICE

NAPOLEON AVENUE METHODIST CHURCH

(Napoleon Avenue at Robertson)

Will celebrate its

CENTENNIAL

April 26 to May 3, 1942

You are cordially invited to attend any or all of these services

Friday, April 24—Centennial Dinner.

Sunday, April 26—11:00 A. M., Speaker, The Reverend W. W. Holmes, D. D. Men Sponsoring 7:45 Reminiscing.

Monday, April 27—Choir Night.

Tuesday, April 28—Sunday School and Young People.

Wednesday, April 29—Ladies Night.

Thursday, April 30—Historical Pageant.

Friday, May 1—Birthday and Cake Cutting. "Round Up", former members and pastors urged to be present. Speaker, Dr. Phil H. Deschner, a former pastor.

Sunday, May 3—11:00 A. M., Finale. Bishop A. Frank Smith speaking, men sponsoring.

All night services will begin at 7:45

A CENTURY OF SERVICE

by the

Napoleon Avenue Methodist Church

and Its Forerunners

By

The Rev. O. E. KRIEGE, D. D.

with the co-operation of

The Rev. Hubert A. Gibbs, Miss Amy Hinrichs,

Mrs. H. W. Meyers

and many others

Sponsored by

THE FELLOWSHIP CLUB

of the

NAPOLEON AVENUE METHODIST CHURCH

Published on the Centennial Anniversary

of the Founding of this Church

MAY 1. 1942

New Orleans, Louisiana

CHALMERS' PRINTING HOUSE

DEDICATION

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TO THE MEMORY

of the

Ministers and Members, who founded and carried forward through good and evil times for a hundred years the glorious work represented by the Napoleon Avenue Methodist church, and who have joined the heavenly throng and gone to their just reward;

TO A RECOGNITION

of the

Splendid service rendered by Ministers and Laymen alike, who love this church and who are still actively engaged in building up the Kingdom of God here or there;

TO THE GLORY

of the

Gospel of Jesus Christ as interpreted by Methodism, proclaiming a free and full salvation to all mankind in a world-wide parish and

TO THE HONOR AND GLORY OF GOD

Whose we are and whom we serve

THIS WORK IS DEDICATED

In deep gratitude

PREFACE

This book had its inception in a meeting of the Fellowship Club held several years ago, where I had read biographical sketches of Peter Schmucker and some other early ministers of the Methodist Episcopal Church, who had labored in New Orleans a hundred years ago, the results of whose labors are still to be seen in the Napoleon Avenue Methodist church and in several other churches of the city. The Fellowship Club that night suggested that the Centennial Anniversary of the founding of the Napoleon Avenue Methodist church should be observed in a fitting way in May, 1942, and requested me to write a history of this church and its fore-runners.

This I have tried to do and the following pages are a result of these studies. Of the inadequate portrayal of the passing years no one is more conscious than I and yet I may say that every effort has been made to verify all the data presented. The preparation of this volume has been a labor of love. Besides the sources named at the conclusion of volume, personal interviews with members of the church, whose memories had preserved vivid pictures of former days, have added much valuable information. To all of these and to those who loaned photographs of groups and individuals, and especially to the Committee named on the title page, and to the Fellowship Club, sponsor of this volume, I wish to express my sincere gratitude.

That these pages may offer not only valuable and interesting information, but a challenge as well to the church of today to match the love and loyalty, the sacrifice and service of the ministers and members of the past one hundred years; that the joy and satisfaction in reviewing the achievements of the past century may be accompanied by a holy determination to make this church, under God, a center of dynamic and constructive religious influence for the years to come, and that sincere gratitude and renewed devotion to the Great Head of the Church may well up in every heart is the fervent prayer of the author.

O. E. KRIEGE.

New Orleans, Louisiana, February 18, 1942.

THE AUTHOR, DR. O. E. KRIEGE, AND MRS. KRIEGE

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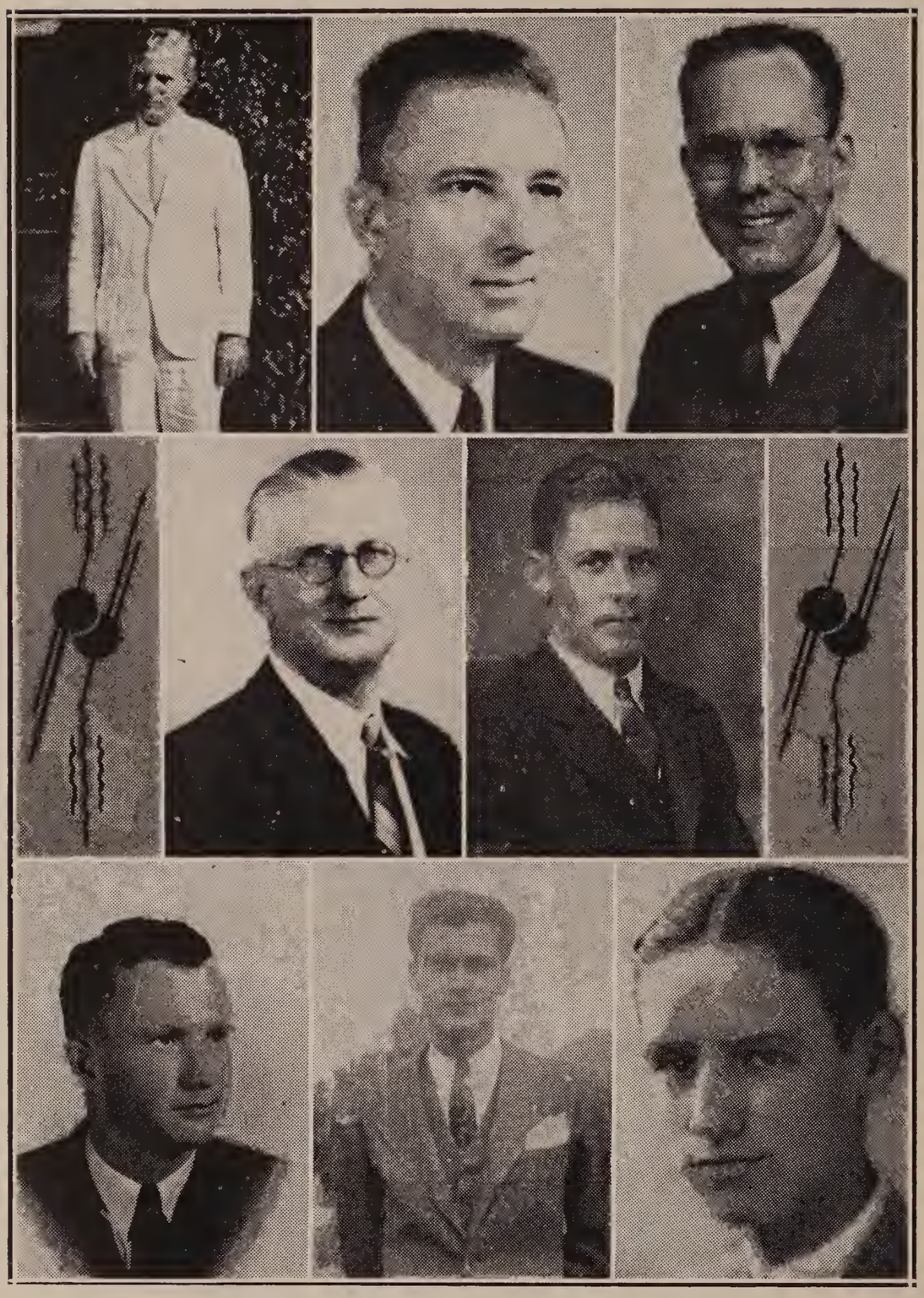

TOP ROW—EMILE J. BERNARD, E. CLARENCE ROLFS, H. J. SEITHER, JR., Past Presidents.
MIDDLE ROW—FRED H. DINGHAUS, Past President; ERNEST ARNOLD, President.
BOTTOM ROW—C. H. FREE, JR., Secretary; DOMENIC ALBANO, Assistant Secretary; PAUL MEYERS, Treasurer.

BACKGROUNDS and BEGINNINGS

The Napoleon Avenue Methodist Church, in part at least, is one of the fruits of the missionary efforts among the numerous Germans of New Orleans about a hundred years ago. At that time sailing vessels arrived almost weekly in the port of New Orleans from Germany bearing hundreds of immigrants who were seeking new homes in America. The vessels came to New Orleans because it was an easy matter to secure a cargo of cotton here for the return voyage. Many immigrants continued their voyage up the Mississippi River, but so many remained in New Orleans that it was claimed that there were more Germans in New Orleans than in any other Southern city or in Cincinnati, where many Germans had settled. For their religious needs there were only a few Roman Catholic and Lutheran churches.

Any history of a Protestant church in New Orleans must take note of two facts. First, there were the overshadowing influence of the Roman Catholic church and the French-Spanish traditions, due to which for nearly a hundred years no Protestant church was permitted to operate in New Orleans. Not until the Louisiana Purchase had been accomplished in 1803 and Louisiana had come under American influences, did Protestant churches gain a precarious foothold. Moral conditions too were exceedingly bad, for licentiousness, gambling, drinking and duelling flourished in this seaport city. The second fact is that until a generation ago, the two great scourges, yellow fever and cholera, were a dread menace to preachers and people alike. Only a few men and women of heroic mold ventured into the city, where gaunt death awaited the newcomer even more surely than the native-born population. Between 1810 and 1837 there were fifteen yellow fever epidemics and in addition always many cases of small pox and cholera. In 1823 the epidemic of yellow

fever and cholera was so severe that one-sixth of the population was swept away. Other epidemics with notably high mortality occurred in 1841, 1853 and 1878. New Orleans owes an eternal debt of gratitude to the medical men and the sanitary engineers who battled with and conquered these dread enemies of civilization.

It should be remembered that German Methodism had been established by William Nast, in Cincinnati, in 1836. There were many commercial and cultural ties between Cincinnati and New Orleans because of the easy transportation facilities on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. It is known that in 1840 three brothers, Theuerkauf by name, came to New Orleans from Cincinnati bearing tidings of the great religious awakening under the preaching of Nast and others in Cincinnati. So much interest was aroused among the Germans in New Orleans that two teachers in German private schools, Karl Bremer and A. Peters, went to Cincinnati to study this Methodist revival at first hand. They were mightily impressed with the importance of this religious movement and succeeded in interesting one of the principal leaders, Peter Schmucker, in the project of establishing a mission among the Germans of New Orleans.

Meanwhile this same project was urged upon Methodist leaders from another source, namely by the Rev. William Winans, the Presiding Elder in New Orleans. After a struggle of twenty years, Methodism was finally established in the unfriendly soil of New Orleans in 1825. The first Methodist church was erected on Gravier Street, between Carondelet and Baronne, present site of the Union Indemnity Building. The church was organized with twenty-three white and sixty colored members. By 1840, when the city had a population of 100,000, there were several Methodist churches, one of them being the Lafayette Methodist church (usually spoken of as the St. Mary's church), of which Phillip H. Dieffenwirth was

pastor. Lafayette was that part of New Orleans around Jackson Avenue. This log church, built in 1830, stood on St. Mary's Street, probably near Tchoupitoulas Street, and was the first of the uptown Methodist churches. Dieffenwirth was of French-German extraction, was born in Europe in 1811, was admitted to the Louisiana Conference in 1847, and died 1896. He was greatly interested in the Germans in New Orleans and established class meetings for them in a private home on what is now Erato Street, between Camp and Magazine. He seems to have appointed A. Tantau as class leader. In 1841 the Mississippi Conference met in New Orleans and as a result of the religious influence of this conference seven young men from New Orleans entered the ministry in 1842, among them Carl Bremer. The Presiding Elder in New Orleans at that time was William Winans, one of the great leaders of the Methodist church. It was he who called the attention of the Mission Board to the importance of special work among the Germans of this city.

In response to these various appeals, Bishop Robert R. Roberts appointed Rev. Peter Schmucker, then engaged in evangelizing in Louisville, Ky., to proceed to New Orleans and establish German Methodism. In spite of the danger of the yellow fever and cholera plagues, Schmucker at once complied with this request and with his wife left Louisville, March 2, 1842, and arrived by boat in New Orleans, March 8. He immediately made contacts with the two uptown Methodist churches, the Poydras and Lafayette churches, distributed Bibles and copies of the "Apologete" and thousands of tracts among the Germans and preached almost daily. He established three preaching places, one a former Baptist church, the second a school house, the third the Lafayette Methodist church. He opened a Sunday School and organized a church of fifteen members, some of whom had been members of English Methodist churches. He bought a lot for $800 on Melicierte (Erato) Street, between Camp and

THE REV. PETER SCHMUCKER

who on May 1, 1842, organized a Methodist Episcopal Church in New Orleans, which was the forerunner of the present Napoleon Avenue Methodist Church

Magazine, a benevolent German brother, Diedrich Mangels, having advanced this sum. The site is now occupied by the Briede Apartments, 911 Erato Street. He then let the contract for a "comfortable frame church" to be ready by September. Members of the Poydras and Lafayette Methodist churches, which had given Schmucker every encouragement, subscribed enough money to cover the cost of this building. Though suffering from an attack of fever, Schmucker conducted a protracted meeting during the Easter season, at which the power of God manifested itself.

On Sunday, May 1, Schmucker held a German Communion service, and on Monday evening a love feast, which was also a farewell meeting, for he was to depart that week for the North, after two months of zealous missionary labors among the Germans of the city. He appointed the aforenamed Carl Bremer as pastor of the little flock until such time as the conference might send a regular preacher. Bremer seems to have been licnsed as a local preacher by Winans as well as by Schmucker.

THUS WAS ESTABLISHED THE FIRST GERMAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN NEW ORLEANS, on May 1, 1842, the day on which the first German Methodist Communion service was celebrated and a date midway between Peter Schmucker's arrival in New Orleans and the completion of the house of worship. It will be noted that the organization of this church occurred two years before the separation of Methodism into a Northern and a Southern branch.

In 1844, the Methodist Episcopal church was divided over the question of slavery. The division, long brewing, became inevitable when Bishop James O. Andrew, of Georgia, by a second marriage became the owner of several slaves. When the Northern element in the General Conference requestd him "to desist from traveling at large through the connection as long as this impediment

remained," those with Southern sentiments decided to withdraw. The Northern and larger part retained the original name: "Methodist Episcopal Church," and the Southern part adopted the title: "Methodist Episcopal Church, South." Methodism in Mississippi and Louisiana had been organized as the Mississippi Conference of the undivided M. E. Church. After the division in 1844, it became the Mississippi Conference of the M. E. Church, South, until January 6, 1847, when the Louisiana Conference of the M. E. Church, South, was organized. To this conference the German Methodist church was attached until after the Civil War.

FIRST PERIOD, 1842-1868

Division of the Church and the Civil War

Rev. Carl Bremer, whom Schmucker had appointed as pastor of the First German Methodist church, joined the Mississippi Conference on trial, November 29, 1843, and continued his labors as pastor of the little church. December 11, 1844, one of his early converts, Nicholas Brickwedel, also joined the conference and became Bremer's co-worker. In January, 1847, Bremer also began to preach in the lower part of the city, where many Germans were engaged in truck farming and dairying. On March 20, 1847, Bremer bought a lot on Piety Street, and on June 2 organized the Second German Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and supervised the building of a frame church. This church was later sold and a new brick structure erected on the site of the present Second Methodist church, on Burgundy Street near Almonaster Street. Bremer was in very poor health. He made a trip North in order to recuperate, but in vain. He returned to New Orleans and was present at the dedication of his new church, by the Rev. Charles Riehl, of the Erato Street church, but died soon after, on September 14, 1847. Nicholas Brickwedel died about the same time. Charles Riehl had been brought from the East to New Orleans in the spring of 1847, and put in charge of the Erato Street church. He was not a success and the work became so badly disorganized that Peter Schmucker early in 1848 was called back to New Orleans to bring order out of chaos. He discharged Riehl and appointed John Martin Hofer, whom he had brought with him, as pastor of the Erato Street church. Hofer had been preaching in Indiana and Ohio since 1839. He remained at the Erato Street church seven years, or until December 14, 1853. He reported a membership of 75.

The German missions were handicapped by a lack of suitable church buildings, there being only two frame churches with a combined seating capacity of 300. The Louisiana Conference therefore, in 1852, authorized Hofer to collect funds for a better site and a larger church. He secured about $1,200 in Alabama, and $800 in New Orleans. On July 21, 1852, a site was purchased on Dryades Street, between Euterpe and Felicity, and a chapel was erected on the rear of this lot. This now became the second home of the First German M. E. Church, South (Erato Street church). Hofer after his term at the First church served the Second church two years and then other German churches, but withdrew from the Louisiana Conference February 3, 1858, as he had become infected with Swedenborgianism and had brought much confusion into the German Methodist churches. The old site on Erato Street was sold and the site later was used for the St. Theresa parochial school, and is now occupied by the Briede Apartments.

An interesting sidelight is thrown on the activities of the Erato Street church by a paragraph in the autobiography of the Rev. E. H. Kriege, who landed in New Orleans from Germany on November 5, 1849, was converted in the Erato Street church, December 24, 1849, and remained in New Orleans until he sailed north on June 23, 1950. He recites that during the protracted meetings in the church, during December, 1849, the preacher in charge of the church, J. M. Hofer, was attending the Louisiana Conference, which met in Shreveport, but that a Bible colporteur and local preacher, John G. Kost, was acting pastor, that he and Ernest Peters, a local preacher lately arrived from Cincinnati, preached, assisted by the other German preachers in New Orleans, Pauli and Moelling. Ernest Huelsmann, a farmer, his father-in-law, Welb, and a Mr. Sonnemann are mentioned as members of the church.

On December 14, 1853, John M. Pauli, one of Bremer's early converts, was appointed pastor of the First German (now Dryades Street) M. E. Church, South. He had served in the Second German church since December, 1849, at which time he had been admitted to the Louisiana Conference. He remained at the Dryades Street church three years, or until February 4, 1857, when he went again to the Second German church, where he remained until the close of 1861. The Dryades Street church was left to be supplied for two years, for these were war times. Both Pauli and Hofer probably helped the local preachers of the church.

On December 16, 1858, Frederick W. Traeger was transferred from the Louisville Conference and stationed at the First church, where he remained two years. It was during this time that the beautiful new Dryades Street church, costing $18,000, was built. It was dedicated on December 19, 1858, during the session of the Louisiana Conference of the M. E. Church, South. The Minutes recite: "The German missions in this city rejoice in the completion of their brick church—a structure which does credit to the liberality of the friends of German Methodism as well as to those German brethren who have so tastefully and economically discharged the office of building committee. The conference will be invited to attend the dedication of this church on tomorrow. We congratulate the conference on the acquisition of two German missionaries by transfer from the Louisville Conference, Brothers Traeger and Arnold."

The Louisiana Conference met on December 16, 1858, in New Orleans, for its thirteenth session. On Sunday, the 19th of December, the new brick Dryades Street Methodist church was dedicated with imposing ceremonies. The cornerstone had been laid on April 11, 1857. At the dedication, which the ministers of the conference attended in a body, a collection was raised amounting to

$2,000. The church membership was reported as 60. Traeger was elected and ordained deacon at the next session of the conference, and ordained elder December 5, 1860, when he reported 123 members, 108 in Sunday School, a missionary collection of $150, and a salary of $800.

With war between the North and the South now inevitable, church activities in New Orleans were greatly disturbed. The Dryades Street church was left to be supplied at the session of the conference, December 5, 1860, which met in Baton Rouge, and Jacob Ueber, a local preacher, residing at 658 N. Rampart Street, was called upon to fill the gap and keep the Dryades Street church from disintegrating. The Conference Minutes for December 11, 1861, state that "the large church built in the city during the last year is occupied, though unfinished. The times and the blockade have put a stop to the payment of the subscriptions made to it." When the name of Frederick W. Traeger was called it was reported by the Presiding Elder that "he had left the country for the North and because he had affiliated with the government of the U. S., and thus rendered himself unacceptable," he was located, that is, dropped from membership in the conference. John A. Pauli was appointed pastor of the First German church, and he seems to have been the only German preacher appointed during the war years. No statistics were published during this period. The fact that for a while during the war Pauli and his wife slept in the church steeple indicates the troubled conditions in New Orleans. But Pauli kept the little band together for "he had in him the material out of which apostles are made." On December 16, 1865, Jacob Ueber was again appointed to the First German church, and his chief business was to tide the church over this difficult period of reorganization. He was elected and ordained elder at the conference session, December 12, 1866, when he reported 88 members.

At this same conference the Rev. John B. A. Ahrens was transferred from the Texas Conference to take over and rebuild the German work which had been so promising before the war. He was a graduate of Soule (now Southwestern) University and of the University of Goettingen, Germany. He translated the Methodist Discipline into German and published German hymnals and church papers, which were widely read. Ahrens remained at the First German church for a total of thirteen years. In 1906 the Dryades Street church was sold and the members were united with the Felicity M. E. Church, South, as the need for further German services had vanished. The Kaufmann store now covers the site of this important and so well known First German M. E. South (Dryades Street) church.

SECOND PERIOD

April 13, 1868, to November 14, 1918

The German M. E. Churches. Felicity Street and Franklin Street Congregations

Because of the division of the Methodist church in 1844, the German Methodist churches of the South automatically were incorporated with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. The German work, however, had been begun and promoted from Cincinnati, where German Methodism was born. Here were published the "Apologete," German hymn books and Bibles. From Cincinnati had come Peter Schmucker in 1842 and again in 1848. Many German preachers had come from the North. Many Germans in New Orleans had far more sympathy with the North than with the South on the question of slavery. When the "Northern" Methodist church therefore began its activities in New Orleans soon after the war (the Ames or St. Charles Avenue M. E. church), many Germans in New Orleans had their native sympathies with the North revived, especially those who had been irked by their forced union with the "Southern" church. It should be noted also that the M. E. church was very liberal with missionary appropriations for work in the South, especially in New Orleans. For all of these reasons there was an inner cleavage among the members of the Dryades Street church, and when the pastor, John B. A. Ahrens, supported by the presiding elder, S. S. Keener, put heavy emphasis on loyalty to Southern ideals, an open break occurred.

Thus it happened that in the Spring of 1868, William Felsing, a teacher, and 24 others withdrew from the Dryades Street church, and on April 13, 1868, organized the "Felicity Street German Methodist Episcopal Church." They rented a hall on the downtown side of Felicity Road, near Dryades Street, and invited Jacob Ueber to be their pastor. This number soon grew to 36, and within a year

the church numbered 51. As some of these names date back to the Erato Street church and many others are well-known in the Napoleon Avenue church of today, it will be interesting to scan the names of these twenty-five charter members of the Felicity Street German Methodist Episcopal church, given in the order in which their signatures appear on that historic document, the names in parentheses being supplied from later church records: Heinrich Meyer, Daniel Holderith, Elizabeth Beckroe, W. Felsing, Henry Wellmann, August Thiergart, Julia Meyer, Anna Thiergart, Henry Meyer, Friederike Meyer, Catherine Welp, W. M. Schuchart, J. S. Schuchart, Amalia Thiergart, Christina Graf, C(atherine) Hilly, F(ritz) Kniemeyer, D(oris) Kniemeyer, sen, D(oris) Kniemeyer (jun), E. Holderith (jun), Gottlieb Wiedmer, Barbara Wiedmer, Elisabeth Meyer, Regina Meyer.

To these twenty-five names of charter members, sixteen other names were added by another hand: Christiane Duerst, Elisabeth Mangels, Christiane Krendel, Louise Leinbacher, Leopold Holderith, Mr. Traumer, Anton F. Wellmann, Sophie Schriver, Louise Meyer, Sop(hia) Meyer, Meta Beeman, Anna Steidinger, Johanne Tecut, Ludwig Canel, Jacob Gujer, Marie Schulmann.

Of these forty-one charter members, thirty were received into the church formally on March 17, 1869, by the Rev. R. K. Diossy, presiding elder of the New Orleans District of the Louisiana M. E. Conference. On March 28, the new pastor, Rev. C. Biel, received the others and in the course of a few weeks, six additional members as follows: Julius Erbach, Dorothea Erbach, A. Catherine Knieper, Friederike Knieper, William Lange, H. Steinmann. Five had died or had withdrawn, so that a year after the organization of the Felicity German M. E. church, there were sixty-one members.

That the hall on Felicity Street was a temporary church home is evidenced by the fact that on September

6, 1870, two lots were bought on the corner of St. Andrew and Franklin Streets, at a cost of $1,200, as a site for the future church. The Board of Trustees consisted of H. Meyer, W. Lange, W. Knieper, A. Thiergard and the Rev. Philip Barth. On January 9, 1871, the society was chartered as the "Felicity Street German M. E. Church." The charter was signed by H. Schuchart, W. Felsing, D. Holderith, August Thiergart, William Lang, H. W. Knieper and H. Meyer, and was witnessed by Henry C. Dibble, Notary Public, and Terrence Wolf. The Charter was to run for twenty-five years.

The Rev. Philip Barth, named above as one of the Trustees, had come from the North and had served the Soraparu (German) M. E. church, but had resigned in December, 1870, because of his Northern sympathies. It was during this time that he served on the Board of Trustees of the Felicity Street church, and perhaps had supplied the pulpit for a brief period. He was received into the Louisiana Conference of the M. E. church, December 12, 1870, and appointed to the Laurel (8th) Street church. Here he remained until June, 1872, when his son, the Rev. J. L. J. Barth, took over the work because of his father's illness. The Rev. Philip Barth returned to the North the following year, and died in 1894, as a member of the St. Louis German Conference.

The Felicity Street German M. E. church had now come into the Louisiana Conference of the M. E. church. This conference was organized in the old Wesley church on South Liberty Street in New Orleans, December 24, 1865, and was composed of six white and twelve Negro preachers. On January 13, 1869, the Rev. Carl Biel was transferred from the Texas Conference to New Orleans, to become pastor of the Felicity Street German M. E. church. He took an active part in the conference sessions, and put zest into the new venture of the Felicity Street church. However, he returned to Texas in less than two

years, to become a presiding elder there. He was born in Germany in 1825, had entered the ministry in 1859, and had a prominent career in what was until unification the Southern German Conference of the M. E. church. He died in Texas, in 1891.

After Biel's departure, Jacob Ueber, the local preacher, again served as pastor in charge, with the help of the Rev. Philip Barth until December 22, 1870, when the Rev. Carl Ska was appointed to the Felicity Street church by the Louisiana Conference. Ska served only seven months and was located at the next session of the conference at his own request because of illness. The Rev. J. C. Speckmann, then residing in New Orleans, took over the church work when Ska became ill and remained in charge about a year. Then Philip Weber was sent as a supply minister to the church, December 14, 1871. The Reverends Ska and Speckmann kept the church intact until January 3, 1873, when finally there was a pastorate of more permanent type.

The Rev. J. C. Speckmann was born in Cincinnati, in 1837, and entered the pastorate in 1864. After his brief term in New Orleans he returned to the Central German Conference and remained active for 34 years. Of the supply pastor, Philip Weber, nothing further is known. He was probably a New Orleans local preacher.

Just why there was no regularly appointed pastor during these trying times, when the congregation was being established and a building project was under way, is not clear. It certainly complicated matters for the church and especially for the building committee. These Reconstruction days, when the "carpet bag regime" was making itself hated and despised, were difficult days for the little "Northern" church. Then, too, the financial crisis of 1873 was already under way, and men were not daring in making contributions to a church. After the Franklin Street site had been purchased September 6, 1870, the

Trustees decided to build a church 35 by 65 feet in size, and H. Meyer was appointed Superintendent of Construction. The building committee was A. Thiergart, W. Lange and H. Wellmann. A vigorous campaign for building funds was conducted and seventy-three persons responded with subscriptions, an evidence of the wide interest in this undertaking. When the church was finally completed the cost of site and sanctuary amounted to $5,388. A debt of $2,165 remained on the edifice. Dedication services were held in the Spring of 1872. The congregation now had an attractive and comfortable church home and for fifty years, with the additions later made, it served the church and community well.

The history of this, the First German M. E. (Franklin Street) church, from now on is well within the memory of the older living members of the Napoleon Avenue church, and many of them love to refer to the "good old days" of the Franklin Street church, known to them either from personal knowledge or from traditions handed down to them from their elders.

On January 7, 1874, Louis Allinger, a young preacher from Ohio, was appointed pastor of the First German M. E. (Franklin Street) church, and he remained three years. Indeed, he had been in charge of the church at least since June 3, 1873, for on that day he called the women of the church together to organize a Ladies' Aid Society. This was done at 3 p. m., on June 3, 1873, and a constitution was adopted. Because of the present great interest in the subject of women's activities in the church at large, and because the names themselves reveal much of the life of the church, the names of the charter members follow here: Regina Meyer, Mesdames Beckroe, Wellmann, Schuchart, Holderith, Guger, Hahnholt, Erbach, Williams, H. Meier, Louisa Meyer, Emma Beckroe, Julia Watkins, Mrs. Allinger. The officers were: President, Beckroe; Vice-President, Wellmann; Secretary, Schu-

To the right: The Franklin Street Methodist Episcopal church, erected in 1872. The one-story parsonage, which stood at the left of the church, is not shown here.

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Below: The Franklin Street Methodist Episcopal church, with the raised parsonage and the connecting Educational building in the rear.

chart; Treasurer, Holderith. The dues were 25 cents per month. The membership in 1874 was 28. The annual contributions to the church were from $50 to $75. The Rev. L. Allinger was born in Germany in 1841, came to America in 1853, became a pastor in Ohio in 1867, and after his pastorate in New Orleans returned to the Central German Conference, where he labored until 1906. He died in Indiana in 1938. At the close of the Rev. Allinger's term he reported fifty-two members and property valued at $7,000.

In the nation and in the city these were historic years. The Centennial of the Independence of the United States was celebrated in Philadelphia with a great exposition during the year 1876. The year 1877 marks the end of the "Reconstruction days," as New Orleans knew them. The Southern German Conference was organized January 15, 1874, and the First German M. E. church was henceforth attached to this conference.

On January 3, 1876, the Rev. Jacob Braun was appointed to the First German M. E. church. He, too, came from the Central German Conference, and returned thither after three years. He was born in Germany in 1836, came to America in 1854, and began preaching in 1859. The family had two sons and three daughters. Two of these daughters in 1926 visited the H. F. Hinrichs family in New Orleans. A third daughter had married the Rev. Chas. A. Ploch, of the Central German Conference. On account of a yellow fever epidemic the Braun family left New Orleans before the close of the conference year.

The Rev. G. Dosdall was the next pastor of the church, appointed November 28, 1879. In 1875 he joined the Northern German Conference, and in 1877 he transferred to the Southern German Conference, where he served for many years. He was General Conference delegate in 1892, and presiding elder of the Brenham, Texas, District. He was pastor of the First German church two years, president

of Blinn Memorial College two years, and in 1901 he transferred back to the Northern German Conference, where he died in 1932.

The Rev. Daniel Matthaei came to the First German church in November, 1881, and served the church with great distinction three years. He had come to America in 1868 as a sixteen-year-old lad, and after studying at Berea, Ohio, several years, had joined the Central German Conference in 1873. He came to New Orleans with his young bride in 1878, and served three years at the Third German M. E. church, and then came to the First church in 1881. From 1884 to 1893 he served important churches in Texas, and then was appointed to the First German M. E. church for a second term of three years, 1893 to 1896. After eighteen years in the South, he transferred back to the Central German Conference. He retired in 1925, after fifty-two years in the active ministry. He died in Toledo, Ohio, in 1937. His was an important ministry at the First German M. E. church, and as a result of these efforts the church increased in numbers and in influence.

The next pastor was the Rev. John Jacob Kienle, who came December 11, 1884. He had been at the Second German M. E. church (Eighth Street) in 1874, and at the Third German M. E. church in 1875, and then was pastor in several places in Texas. He served a term of two years at the First church. His daughter, Lydia, became the wife of Mr. James R. Meyers, one of the prominent members of the First German church. During this pastorate the Cotton Centennial Exposition was held in New Orleans, in what is now Audubon Park, in consequence of which many German Methodist visitors came to the city and to the church. Also during this time, on September 28, 1885, the Protestant Home for the Aged was incorporated, among the incorporators being the Rev. J. J. Kienle and Mr. Henry Wellmann, of the First German church, the Rev. Charles Schuler, of the Second German

church, and Mr. Jacob Ueber, of the Third German M. E. church. The Rev. Mr. Kierle was in the active pastorate twenty years. He died in Brenham, Texas, in 1894. His body was laid to rest in Lafayette Cemetery No. 1, in New Orleans.

On December 2, 1886, the Rev. Bruno Boetzinger became pastor of the First German M. E. church and remained two years. The church records show that the daughter, Lena, was received from the roll of probationers into full membership in the church in 1887, and that the Rev. Bruno Boetzinger and his wife, Sophie, received letters of dismissal to the French Mission in 1888. The Rev. Mr. Boetzinger was able to use the French and Italian languages as well as the English and German. It is recalled that he would drive to the French Quarter in a spring wagon, in which there was a small organ, and that he would sing and play and preach from that wagon pulpit to all that would pause to listen. A page from the record of the Sunday School for the year 1888 follows, as it presents a number of names familiar today. "Superintendent, Henry Wellmann; Vice-Superintendent, M. Seither; Secretary, Chas. F. Pfeiffer; Treasurer, J. B. Meyers; Librarian, Henry Hinrichs. Men teachers were the Rev. Mr. Boetzinger, (John) Chas. Kirchberg, Jacob Furer. Lady teachers were Mother Meyer, Louise Leinbacher, Louise Meyer, Sohpia Meyer, Miss Riels, Emma Miller, Lena Kirchberg, May Pfeiffer, Celey Kirchberg, Adje Hendricks, Mamie Seither, Louise Wellmann, Mary Kentzell, Lulu Scherer, Lottie Regner, Mary Moppert, Lena Boetzinger. The lowest attendance, because of inclement weather, was 36 on August 12; the highest, 147, on January 1."

At the conference session on January 31, 1889, the Rev. John C. Groth was transferred from the East German Conference and appointed to the First German M. E. church, New Orleans, where he remained three years. He

was born in Germany in 1846, was converted on the Atlantic Ocean as a sailor, joined the East German Conference in 1871, and came to First church, New Orleans, in 1889. After his pastorate here he served various churches in Texas. He retired from the active ministry in 1911, and died in 1932.

The Rev. Henry Dietz followed in the pastorate at the First church, on December 12, 1891. He was born in Germany in 1845, and became a minister in 1879. He was a delegate to the General Conference in 1896. He preached for forty years, chiefly in Texas, and died in 1913. His term at the First church was two years.

The Rev. Daniel Matthaei served his second term at the First church, from November 23, 1893, to November 24, 1896, as stated in a previous paragraph.

The Rev. John Pluenneke was appointed pastor of the First German M. E. church November 24, 1896, and remained three years. He was the first native-born pastor to serve this church. Born in Llano, Texas, in 1862, he joined the conference in 1887, and served numerous churches in Texas. He was President of Blinn Memorial College, Brenham, Texas, from 1909 to 1915. He was a brilliant preacher and an excellent administrator. In 1906, Central Wesleyan College conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Divinity. In 1916 he was a delegate to the General Conference which met in Saratoga Springs, N. Y. During the First World War and due to the then prevailing war frenzy, he suffered a nervous collapse and very regrettably took his own life while pastor at Seguin, Texas, in 1918.

The Rev. William A. Moers followed as pastor of the First German M. E. church, and served from November 29, 1899, to November 22, 1906, a term of seven years, the longest pastorate up to that date. The time limit for pastorates had been extended in the church at large from

one to two years, then to three, then to five, and finally had been removed entirely, as it is today, so that, if it is mutually satisfactory to pastor and people, and the conference gives its approval, a pastor may be re-appointed year after year to the same church indefinitely.

The Rev. Mr. Moers was born in Germany in 1853, and came to America as a young man. He lived for some years near Salisbury, Mo., where he was married. He engaged in teaching and notarial work there and in Houston, Texas. He was received into the Southern German Conference in 1889, and during his long and successful ministry he served many of the important churches in the conference. He was a versatile man and was greatly interested in public affairs. He was a great church builder and was successful in financing such enterprises. For years he was treasurer of the Retired Preachers' Fund. He was greatly interested in education, especially in Blinn Memorial College, and did much to perpetuate this institution.

During his term as pastor of the First church, the lot in the rear of the church, facing St. Andrew Street, from which the building had been removed, was bought, and a suitable and greatly needed Sunday School building was erected and connected with the main church building. This addition was built by Mr. Ernest Hoppmeyer, of the Eighth Street church. The Rev. Mr. Moers was a delegate to the General Conference, which met in Minneapolis in 1912. He was a greatly beloved minister in New Orleans, and Mrs. Moers was an ideal minister's wife. The family, with six sons and three daughters, filled a large place in the life of the church and the community. A daughter-in- law, Mrs. Virginia Henricks Moers (Mrs. Louis Ernest Moers), lives in New Orleans and is a member of the Napoleon Avenue Methodist church. The Rev. Mr. Moers died in Europe, in 1930, while on a vacation trip.

On August 13, 1904, a new charter was obtained, in which the title of the church was changed to "Franklin

Street Methodist Episcopal Church." Names attached to these Articles of Incorporation are: John B. Meyers, H. F. Hinrichs, D. X. Holderith, F. W. Kirchberg. J. H. Meyers, M. Seither, Jr., and John C. Kirchberg. Witnesses were Daniel Wendling and W. W. Johnson. In 1918 the title became "Franklin-Napoleon Methodist Episcopal Church." In 1922 it was changed to "Napoleon Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church." Because of the unification of three branches of Methodism in May, 1939, the official title is now: "The Napoleon Avenue Methodist Church."

The Rev. H. Bohmfalk's pastorate was from November 22, 1906, to June 6, 1908. Because of illness he was unable to complete his second year as pastor. He was born in Texas and entered the ministry there in 1896. He died in LaGrange, Texas, January 6, 1910. A son, Mr. Arthur A. Bohmfalk, resides in New Orleans and is a member of the Napoleon Avenue Methodist church.

The Rev. A. A. Leifeste, a native of Texas, who had just finished his studies at Blinn Memorial College, was called upon to fill the interim of six months between the Rev. Mr. Bohmfalk's departure, in June, 1908, and the next session of the annual conference. He then was appointed to the Eighth Street Methodist church, where he served seven years with great distinction. The Rev. Mr. Leifeste was a leader in the Southern Conference and held important positions as pastor, presiding elder, and as Financial Agent of Blinn Memorial College. At present he is pastor in Greggton, Texas, in the Texas Conference.

The Rev. E. F. Schuessler came to the Franklin Street church as pastor for his first term on December 30, 1908, and remained five years. He was born in Texas, entered the ministry in 1898, at once became a leader in his conference, but because of illness he took the retired relation in 1924, and has since then been engaged in business. He resides in Seguin, Texas. (See a later paragraph).

The Rev. B. E. Breihan's pastorate at the Franklin Street M E. church began November 20, 1913, and continued two years. He attended college in Brenham, Texas, and Berea, Ohio, and entered the ministry in 1905. After holding a number of pastorates, he was elected President of Blinn Memorial College, where he remained from 1924 to 1927. After several years in the retired relation he is again in the active ministry, and is at present stationed at Kerrville, Texas, in the Southwest Texas Conference.

The second pastorate of the Rev. E. F. Schuessler continued from November 24, 1915, to November 22, 1917. The World War, which had broken out in 1914, had disturbed the church life here as it had elsewhere. A number of young men of the First church answered the call of the country and a beautiful service flag paid tribute to their valor. A window in the Napoleon Avenue church is dedicated to the men who entered the service of the United States. The German language, which had been used alternately with the English for some years, was now entirely discarded in the public services. As German immigration had ceased, and as the children and the youth of the church were thoroughly Americanized, and were unable either to speak or to understand the German language, it was not only a patriotic step but a very wise one to use the language of the land, which all could understand. Since that day the church has been in the best sense of the term an American church. At the end of the Rev. Mr. Schuessler's second pastorate the merger of the Ames (St. Charles Avenue) M. E. church with the Franklin-Napoleon Avenue M. E. church was effected, for which see a later paragraph.

In many respects the influence of the First German (Franklin Street) M. E. church during these early years of the twentieth century was at its peak. The church property was attractive and was kept in good repair. The one-story parsonage was raised and made into a two-story

MINISTERS OF EARLY YEARS

TOP ROW—CARL BIEL, LOUIS ALLINGER, JACOB BRAUN.
MIDDLE ROW—J. J. KIENLE, DANIEL MATTHAEI.
BOTTOM ROW—JOHN C. GROTH, JOHN PLUENNEKE, WILLIAM A. MOERS.

residence and connected with the Sunday School building in the rear of the church. The contractor and builder was Mr. H. F. Hinrichs. The rooms under the parsonage were used for Sunday School and general church purposes. There was a well-organized and wide-awake Sunday School, the Business Men's Bible class being especially successful in that the attendance often reached the one hundred mark. The president of the class was Mr. Henry Burgard, the teacher was Mr. Edwin A. Smith. The very active Epworth League numbered about fifty. A two-manual Hinners' pipe organ had been installed and church music played an important part in the worship services. The organists were interchangeably Mr. James R. Meyers, Mr. Louis Meyers and Miss Gertrude Willis. The Ladies' Aid had unfolded a varied and helpful activity. The ministers took part in all the religious and social enterprises of the city, like the Gypsy Smith meetings in the tabernacle on Clio Street in 1920. They attended the Protestant Ministers' Union, were Directors of the Home for the Aged, and took their turn in the preaching services of the Home. The men and women of the church likewise were members of the Board of Directors and of the Ladies' Aid of the Home. The church was host to the Southern German Conference three times: in 1904, 1912 and in 1924.

Yet a grave problem began to make itself known in the church. A shift in population areas had brought a large Negro population into the neighborhood of the church, and increasingly it became a question of whether the church should remain at its present site or remove to some more favorable locality. Quite naturally there was a division of opinion, many preferring to remain because of the intimate friendships and the precious religious experiences. The majority, however, held that the future of the church depended on a re-location to a more favorable site. To carry out this program became the high task of the next pastorate.

THIRD PERIOD, 1918 to 1942

The Present Napoleon Avenue Methodist Church

On November 14, 1918, the Rev. Phil Deschner was appointed to the Franklin Street German M. E. church. He was born in what then was Austria-Hungary. He came to Texas as a child, attended public schools, graduated from Blinn Memorial College, then from Central Wesleyan College (A. B. 1912), and from Boston University, from which institution he received the S. T. B. degree in 1915 and the Ph. D. degree in 1927. He entered the ministry in the Oregon Conference in 1915, and transferred to the Southern German Conference in 1918, and came to the pastorate of the church in New Orleans, where he remained for eight and a half years, or until May, 1927. He resigned this pastorate to become President of Blinn Memorial College, in which office he remained two years. In 1931, he transferred into the Oklahoma Conference, and is now pastor in Ponca City, Okla. Mrs. Deschner has been a splendid helpmeet. Her brother, Walter H. Eversmeyer, Sen., and family are members of the Napoleon Avenue church.

Because of the heavy pastoral duties occasioned by the impending re-location of the Franklin Street church and the merger with the St. Charles Avenue (Ames) church, Dr. Deschner had an assistant two years: the Rev. H. E. Roos in 1918 and the Rev. H. W. Bahler in 1919. The Rev. Mr. Roos was born in Texas in 1893. He graduated from Blinn College and from Central Wesleyan College (A. B. 1922). He was admitted to the Southern German Conference in 1913, and transferred in 1922 to the St. Louis German Conference. He died while pastor in Cape Girardeau, Mo., in 1925. The Rev. Mr. Bahler joined the Southern German Conference in 1916, after graduating from Blinn College. He spent the year 1919 as assistant at this church, and then was pastor of the Eighth Street church

for four years, from 1920 to 1924. At the beginning of this latter pastorate he was married to Miss Amy Moppert, of the Franklin Street M. E. church. He is now pastor of the St. James Street Methodist church, in Galveston, Texas, and a member of the Texas Conference. For several years, until 1928, Miss Pauline Ebel rendered valuable service in the church activities as Deaconess.

Various steps taken during the pastorate of Dr. Deschner were of far-reaching importance: the purchase of a new location for the church, the merger with the St. Charles Avenue (Ames) church, and the erection of a new house of worship. The latter two projects had been under way during the pastorate of the Rev. E. F. Schuessler, but were not accomplished until now. Meanwhile all the usual activities of a growing church had to be carried on uninterruptedly. The Rev. Mr. Moers had predicted the necessity of an early change of location. Had the church then acted on his suggestion, an even more favorable site on Napoleon Avenue might have been secured for the church at a lower price and the building costs would also have been far less. As it was, by the official action of the Official Board and the Board of Trustees, four lots on the riverside, uptown (southwest) corner of Napoleon Avenue and South Robertson Street were purchased on February 9, 1920, at a cost in round figures of $13,000. This site was selected because many of the members were then living in this rapidly developing section of the city and also because it was in a territory unoccupied by any other Protestant church, and far enough removed from other Methodist churches, so that in case unification should come to pass, the location would still be correct with reference to other Methodist churches.

The merger with the St. Charles Avenue (Ames) M. E. church is a story in itself. It will be remembered that New Orleans had been captured by the Federal fleet under Admiral Farragut, in April, 1862, and that thereafter the city was held by the Federals until the end of the Re-

construction days in 1877. The leaders of the M. E. church, believing that they owed a duty to the Union officers and soldiers as well as to citizens with Northern sympathies, decided to again begin activities in New Orleans and the South. To this end the Mississippi Conference was organized in the old Wesley church on South Liberty Street, December 24, 1865 (the so-called "second Christmas conference"), with white and colored preachers. The Rev. H. G. Jackson was elected and ordained deacon and appointed pastor of the St. Charles Avenue church, named also in honor of Bishop E. R. Ames, the "Ames" M. E. church. The church was incorporated and services were held in a rented hall. The following year a lot was bought on the riverside, downtown (Southeast) corner of St. Charles Avenue and Calliope Street for $10-000 and the contract let for the church, which cost $36,-000. The church was an imposing structure with a commodious auditorium. The conference in 1866 appointed the Rev. J. P. Newman as pastor of this church. In later years he became a leading bishop of the church. He was known as one of the greatest pulpit orators of the church, and during the three years of his ministry he attracted great crowds to the services. The membership of the church was never large (about 125), but its influence as an evangelizing agency was very considerable. Some of the leading ministers of the connection served as pastors. The church at its founding was attached to the Mississippi (later the Louisiana) mixed conference of the M. E. church until it came into the Gulf Conference of the M. E. church, when that was organized in 1893.

When after a generation or two the bitterness of the Civil War had been overcome to some extent, and because there were three other M. E. churches now using the English language, hence making it superfluous to maintain a church especially to serve the English-speaking people, but most of all because the First M. E., South, church was erecting a magnificent church edifice, directly

across the street from the Ames church, it seemed that the advisable and Christian thing to do would be to withdraw from the field and not continue altar against altar. The resident M. E. bishop in New Orleans, Wilbur P. Thirkield, gave this problem his close study and advised a re-location of the St. Charles Avenue church, and if possible a merger with the Franklin Street church, of which the Rev. E. F. Schuessler was then pastor. In consequence, on March 16, 1917, the Quarterly Conference of the St. Charles Avenue church authorized the sale of its property for $15,000, the payment of its remaining indebtedness, and the purchase of a small frame Presbyterian mission church on Napoleon Avenue and South Robertson Street for $5,250, of which sum the Franklin Street church contributed $1,000. Fourteen members of the St. Charles Avenue church and a number of Franklin Street members were transferred to this little church on Napoleon Avenue as the nucleus of a new congregation. On February 7, 1918, the St. Charles Avenue church deeded this newly purchased property to the Franklin Street church. The official name of this merged church was Franklin-Napoleon M. E. church. For two and a half years services were conducted in both the Franklin Street and the Napoleon Avenue churches, during which time the Rev. Mr. Roos and the Rev. Mr. Bahler assisted the pastor, Dr. Phil Deschner.

Thus ended the separate existence of the St. Charles Avenue (Ames) M. E. church. Its fifty yars of service were not in vain. As a downtown American church it made its appeal to transient guests as well as to the local constituency. When President U. S. Grant visited New Orleans in 1874 he was tendered a welcome in this church as well as in Old Wesley on South Liberty Street. The fine pews of the St. Charles Avenue church are still in use in the "Church of the Redeemer" (Italian) and in the Williams Chapel (Negro), and the one in which President Grant sat is pointed out to the visitor.

St. Charles Avenue (Ames) Methodist Episcopal Church
1865-1918

The Rev. G. B. Hines in his report as presiding elder and pastor of this church in 1910, says: "St Charles Avenue has made some progress. A splendid Epworth League has been organized, our prayer meetings are largely attended, preaching at Lee Circle has been kept up every evening during the year, $100.00 has been added to the pastor's salary, and nearly $300.00 in benevolences has been raised." Rev. Mr. Hines later became a Presbyterian minister, and for more than twenty years has been pastor of the First Presbyterian church in Lake Charles, La. He is probably the most widely known minister in Southwest Louisiana today.

On the fiftieth anniversary of the St. Charles Avenue church, June 10, 1917, the last service was conducted in the church at the morning hour of worship. Thirty-eight members identified themselves with the Napoleon Avenue church, others, quite naturally, found their way into the First M. E. Church, South, and into other churches of the city. The following were received into the Napoleon Avenue church by transfer from the St. Charles Avenue church, by the Rev. E. F. Schuessler, on April 16, 1918:

Baxter, Miss Helen
Cameron, Miss Harriet
Cameron, Miss Mary
Cameron, Alvin
Clark, Miss Carrie
Cook, Mrs. M. C.
Davis, Mrs. Addie
Davis, Ben
Dillon, Mrs. Martha
Dillon, Miss Alice
Duncan, Mrs.
Durant, Mr.
Durant, Mrs. Maggie
Finney, Mrs. Frances
Fioake, Mrs. Fannie
Fuller, Dr. R. T.
Fuller, Mrs. R. T.
Fuller, Paul
Good, Mrs. Sara
Hendricks, Mrs. Essie Davis
Hunter, Mrs. Corine
Loy, Mrs. (Rev.) F. W.
Loy, Miss Jessie
Loy, Miss Helen Pauline
Loy, Frank M.
McDonald, Mrs. Fannie
Page, Miss Eliza
(Hammond, La.)
Passero, Jos.
Perry, Mrs. M.

Piel, Mrs. J. W.
Redmond, Mrs. Barbara A.
Reed, Mrs. Lillie A.
Scott, Dr. J. E.
Thirkield, Miss Helen
Thirkield, Mrs. Mary (Mrs. Bishop W. P. Thirkield)
Thomas, B. H.
Zimmer, Mrs. H. M.
Zimmer, Miss Henrietta

Because of its historic interest, the roster of the ministers, who served the St. Charles Avenue (Ames) M. E. church from its founding in 1865, to its merger with the Napoleon Avenue M. E. church in 1918, follows. The dates mentioned, for the most part, are the dates for the opening day of the conference session, at which the appointment was made.

December 25, 1865—Henry G. Jackson.
December 13, 1866—John P. Newman (later Bishop).
January 26, 1870—Joseph C. Hartzell (later Missionary Bishop of Africa).
January 8, 1873—Supplied by James Morrow.
January 5, 1876—J. D. Adams.
January 10, 1877—J. H. McCarty.
January 29, 1879—Supplied by Geo. H. Bristor.
January 26, 1881—William C. Webb.
February 15, 1883—J. G. Vaughn.
January 29, 1885—Thos. Stalker.
January 28, 1886—W. P. McLaughlin.
January 31, 1889—W. E. Shinn.
January 29, 1890—L. Morgan Wood.
June 6, 1890—R. L. Crawford.
June 13, 1892—Supplied by Geo. S. Easton.
October 10, 1894—E. W. Osburn.
October 9, 1899—Wm. R. Chase.
February 21, 1902—J. G. Little.
June 1, 1902—J. R. Basket.
February 4, 1904—W. E. Harrison.
February 15, 1906—D. H. Kirkpatrick.
November 20, 1906—Thos. E. Webb.

December 21, 1907—J. W. Hervey.
May 1, 1909—Geo. B. Hines (also Presiding Elder, 1910-1911).
December 19, 1912—R. O. McClure.
October 1, 1914—Frank W. Loy (also Presiding Elder, 1915-1916; District Superintendent, Lake Charles District, Gulf Conference, 1916-1921; President, Evangeline College, 1920-1921; Retired, 1922; Transferred to Colorado Conference, 1939).

The third great project of Dr. Deschner's pastorate was the building of a new church. Here again Bishop Thirkield quite naturally wielded a commanding influence. Through his efforts a grant of $25,000 for this new church was made by the Board of Home Missions and Church Extension at Philadelphia, on the condition that Centenary payments be made in full by the church at large. The church, however, in the post-war period, was unable to keep up its remarkable giving and the receipts of the Board of Church Extension were not up to expectations. Nevertheless it contributed to the new church $23,-750, certainly a generous and worthwhile sum. Bishop Thirkield and the Methodist Bureau of Architecture contributed plans and suggestions for a dignified church building. Practically every member of the church and many others contributed generously to the building fund and a total of $73,500 was paid in, the estate of Mr. John B. Meyers and the several members of the Meyers family contributing about $20,000. H. F. Hinrichs and Son were employed as architects and builders at cost plus 8%, exclusive of furniture. Ground was broken October 15, 1921. The cornerstone was laid with Masonic rites on December 10, 1921, and the completed church was dedicated January 28, 1923, by Bishop Ernest L. Waldorf, who spoke on the text: "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might," Eccl. 9-10. The total costs for site, building and furniture amounted to $106,000. There remained a

debt on the building of $22,500. The last services in the Franklin Street church were held on June 25, 1922, the Rev. A. A. Leifeste, District Superintendent, preaching and administering the Lord's Supper. The Franklin Street property was sold for $12,000 to Negro Methodist Episcopalians, and is now known as "The Peoples' Community Center." This is a well-organized social agency, which has the approval and financial support of the Community Chest. The congregation itself, however, is quite small.

Architecturally the Napoleon Avenue church is without doubt one of the most beautiful Methodist churches in New Orleans. It is built of dark red matt brick in Gothic style. The auditorium proper faces Napoleon Avenue. The large educational and recreational wing faces South Robertson Street. The seating capacity is 254. The auditorium has beautiful art glass windows throughout, a dignified reredos and choir loft, a great organ with concealed pipes, beautiful pews and altar furniture, and a convenient vestibule with a small gallery above. The auditorium ceiling rises to the height of the roof, hexagonal pillars supporting the naves, which provide space for the side aisles. Indirect lighting is provided. The educational and recreational two-story wing, architecturally harmonious with the auditorium, provides a large hall on the second floor with movable partitions for classroom purposes, and ample kitchen equipment, and on the first floor four Sunday school rooms. Ample lavatories are on the first and second floors. The splendid three-manual Moeller pipe organ, with over 500 pipes, equipped with chimes, and costing $4,000, was the gift of Mr. and Mrs. James R. Meyers.

The large front window, depicting the Resurrection scene, was placed there in memory of deceased members of the Meyers family: Regina Meyers, John B. Meyers, Mrs. John B. Meyers, and Henry W. Meyers. The Good

Samaritan window above the choir loft was "Dedicated to the men of this church, who served in the World War, 1917-1919." The five memorial windows on the north side (each costing $125) illustrate sentences from the 23rd Psalm, and bear the following inscriptions: Young Men's Bible Class; Chas. and Mary Assenheimer; Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Kirchberg, sen.; Mehrtens; Mary Logan Hunter. The seven windows on the south side depict scenes from the life of our Lord and have the following inscriptions: Busy Bees' Class; Mourer-Hildebrand; Hinrichs-Pfeiffer; Mrs. E. R. Ricks and Mrs. P. C. Burg; Mr. and Mrs. M. Seither, Jr.; Henry Wellmann; Spindler Family.

The chaste, marble baptismal font was the gift of Mrs. D. T. King. The heavy, quartered oak pulpit and altar furniture was the gift of Mrs. James R. Meyers, in memory of her father, the Rev. J. J. Kienle. The illuminated cross over the pulpit, in its rich metal frame, the most beautiful cross in any Protestant church in the city, was presented by Mr. Warren W. Rolfs, in memory of his father, William George Rolfs.

At the dedication of this church the membership was 335, the Sunday school enrollment was 553, and that of the Epworth League was 60. Members of the Board of Trustees were: Rev. Phil Deschner, Horace Brownell, Henry Mehrtens, H. F. Hinrichs, Wm. Kirchberg, J. Han Meyers, Walter Eversmeyer, John Kentzel, D. X. Holderith, R. Seither and Henry Burgard.

The pastorate of Rev. Phil Deschner was not only the longest in the history of the church (eight and a half years), but the most outstanding because of the above important changes. At the close of his term in 1927 the membership of the church was reported as 354 active and 155 inactive, the Sunday school enrollment as 458. The budget, too, reached its peak, the total giving of the church being $10,726 for the year 1926-1927.

The Rev. Walter Bradley Morgan followed Dr. Deschner. He came to the church in May, 1927, from the St. Louis Conference, where he had preached in St. Louis and Kansas City. He was born in Indiana, and graduated at De Pauw University. He was a very versatile man and introduced many new features into the public worship services and made use of publicity measures of various kinds, whereby he brought the Napoleon Avenue church before the general public as no one before him had done. His easy and familiar attitude endeared him especially to the young people of the community. During his pastorate the Fellowship Club was organized, the first meeting being held in the home of Mr. Emile Bernard, in December, 1930. The club has continued to the present time without interruption. Its main purpose is to bind together the men of the Bible class and of the church and their friends by religious and social ties. In addition, since 1935, it has contributed $200 annually to the reduction of the church debt. There are about fifty members.

During Dr. Morgan's pastorate, Holy Week, or pre-Easter evangelistic services and the three-hour service on Good Friday became firmly established, to the spiritual edification of the members and friends. In 1931, Dr. Morgan was transferred to the Holston Conference, and appointed to the First M. E. church, Knoxville, Tenn. He is now in the Rock River Conference and stationed at the First Methodist church in Sycamore, Ill. He and his family still have many warm friends in this church.

On December 2, 1931, the Rev. B. H. Fleming became the minister of the Napoleon Avenue church. He had served in several conferences in the North and in California, then transferred to the Southern Conference and was stationed at the First M. E. church, Dallas, Texas, from whence he came to the Napoleon Avenue church. The Rev. Mr. Fleming will be remembered for his chaste and dignified pulpit language and for his fervent and reverential pray-

ers. Mrs. Fleming will be remembered for her helpful work with the children of the church. The Rev. Mr. Fleming's pastorate saw the immediate results of the financial collapse of 1929, and the resulting bank failures, by which he as well as practically every member of the church suffered heavy financial losses. It was difficult for the church to make up its greatly reduced budget and this fact made Dr. Fleming's pastorate difficult. He remained two years, then was sent to Collins Memorial church, Houston, Texas, and since 1936 has been at Oakwood church, Houston, in the Texas Conference. The Rev. Mr. Fleming has two sons in the ministry, both stationed in Oklahoma.

The Rev. John J. Brodhead served the Napoleon Avenue church from December 6, 1933, to August 1, 1937. He is a native of Pennsylvania, and a graduate of Boston University. He entered the ministry in the Pittsburgh Conference in 1914, went to the Kansas Conference in 1921, and to the Southern Conference in 1931. He came from the Collins Memorial church, in Houston, Texas, to New Orleans, in 1933. The Rev. Mr. Brodhead's social qualities and unselfish service for others and his faithful pastoral work were outstanding, as well as Mrs. Brodhead's friendliness and fine co-operation. Furthermore, with the hearty co-operation of the church officials, he undertook to do what no one had done since the new church was built: namely, to reduce the church debt. In spite of the unbroken depression, the church debt of $22,500 was refunded at a lower rate of interest and arrangements were made for an annual reduction of the principal, a program which has been followed to the present, so that the remaining debt now stands at $6,250. Because of the general goodwill and the happy relations that existed between pastor and people, it was thought that the Rev. Mr. Brodhead and family would continue at the Napoleon Avenue church for many years. It therefore came as a surprise when on August 1, 1937, he announced his ex-

change with another pastor, the Rev. W. R. Polhamus, of Dallas, Texas, an arrangement which had been carried forward between the pastors and the district superintendents. In 1940, the Rev. Mr. Brodhead transferred to the St. Louis Conference and is now stationed at the Vinita Park Methodist church, St. Louis, Mo.

The Rev. W. R. Polhamus came on August 1, 1937, and remained until May 1, 1940. He is a native of Ohio, a graduate of Western Reserve University (A. B.), and of Boston University (S. T. B.). He received the Ph. D. degree from Temple University. He entered the ministry in 1909, served 20 years in Ohio, then transferred to the Holston Conference and served First church, Knoxville, Tenn., two years. He then transferred to the Southern Conference and was stationed at First church, Dallas, Texas, six years. He is a ready speaker, a man of many parts, a sincere scholar and author of several volumes, sermonic and expository in character. His interest in fraternal organizations gave him entree to many circles that heard him gladly. In his first year 150 new Methodist hymnals were provided for the church, a contribution from the members, friends and organizations in memory of loved ones. This was a crying need, as the old hymnals were out of date, few in number and badly worn.

The unification of the Methodist Episcopal church, the Methodist Episcopal church, South, and the Methodist Protestant church, was finally accomplished at Kansas City, in April-May, 1939, during Dr. Polhamus' term—an issue which had been the subject of hopes and prayers for many years. For the Napoleon Avenue church and for its pastor it meant the breaking of familiar ties and the forming of new alliances. The Southern Conference was dissolved October 19, 1939, and the Napoleon Avenue church and its pastor became a part of the Louisiana Conference of the Methodist Church, November 14, 1939. It meant participation in many union services with the

other Methodist churches in New Orleans, receiving a new district superintendent and a new bishop, and engaging in some activities not heretofore on the agenda of the church. There is every reason to believe that this step will be blessed of God and that Methodism will go forward to new and greater service for the Kingdom. On May 1, 1940, Dr. Polhamus exchanged with the pastor of West Plains, Mo., the Rev. Hubert A. Gibbs, after full consideration on the part of the pastors and churches concerned. Dr. Polhamus is now pastor at Festus, Mo., St. Louis Conference.

By this exchange the Rev. Hubert Arthur Gibbs came to be the pastor of the Napoleon Avenue church. The Rev. Mr. Gibbs is a native of Tennessee, but grew to manhood in Texas. He graduated from Southern Methodist University, in Dallas, in 1926 (A. B.), and joined the North Texas Conference the same year. He served a student charge and built the Brandon Avenue Methodist church in Dallas. He then continued his theological studies at S. M. U., receiving the B. D. degree in 1928, when he transferred to the St. Louis Conference of the M. E. church, South. When the exchange with Dr. Polhamus was made in May, 1940, the Rev. Mr. Gibbs had been pastor in West Plains, Mo., two years.

When the Rev. Mr. Gibbs arrived he found the church negotiating for the purchase of the residence that had been used as a parsonage seven years. This handsome two-story residence, 2023 Milan Street, had been bought by Dr. T. Restin Heath, Superintendent of the Flint-Goodridge Hospital, for the Board of Education of the M. E. church, in 1922, for $12,000, including improvements then made. Because of adjustments occasioned by unification, the Board of Education was eager to dispose of this property and offered it to the church for $4,000. The Official Board felt that this offer should not be passed by and therefore authorized the Trustees to pur-

chase the property and to spend $1,000 in completely renovating the residence. The purchase was accomplished through the Oak Homestead Association, which loaned $5,000 on the fifteen-year payment plan, and at present holds title to the property. The monthly installment of $42.20 is so little more than the $35.00 monthly rental previously paid that the burden is not heavy. The parsonage is now one of the best in the city, and the pastor and his family are very happy in their beautiful home.

The Rev. and Mrs. Gibbs and their daughter, Sarah Jo, entered the parsonage early in May, 1940, and were given a hearty "house warming" by the church soon thereafter. They at once entered into the work of the church with enthusiasm and good judgment, so that they quickly won the goodwill of all the groups in the church. The attendance upon the worship services has increased appreciably and a good spirit pervades the congregation. All agree that Mrs. Gibbs is a fine co-pastor. A goodly number of active members have come into the church, and both the Sunday School (completely reorganized) and the League have taken on new life. The Rev. Mr. Gibbs recognizes the fact that the Napoleon Avenue church is strategically located to become one of the outstanding churches among the 17 in unified Methodism, and is bending every effort to make the church an important center of religious influence in the community. A week-day Bible school in the summer of 1940 brought in more than one hundred neighborhood children. The financial obligations of the church are being met in full, both on August 1, when the annual payment on the debt is due, and at the close of the conference year, in spite of the fact that about $500 was added to the budget because of unification.

The Rev. Mr. Gibbs, with the consent of the quarterly conference, has made an important change in the officiary of the church in that henceforth there will be no

overlapping on the Board of Trustees and the Board of Stewards. The number of stewards has been reduced and limited to men because of the new responsibilities of women in the unified Methodist church.

The Woman's Society of Christian Service is the organization which was set up for united Methodism, an organization which is eventually to include all the activities of the women of the church, both for local enterprises and for the cause of foreign and home missions. In the Napoleon Avenue church this goal cannot be reached at once as the Women's Auxiliary is too vigorous an organization, dating back to June 3, 1873, to be absorbed at present, contributing as it does at least $500 a year toward the church debt. The Ladies' Bible class likewise is an organized class that meets monthly and contributes $150 a year to the same cause. The missionary Society of the church, however, as well as the Young Women's Missionary Society, have been completely merged with the new society. The W. S. C. S. was launched on September 17, 1940, with 106 women as charter members.

It will be of special interest to the present church members to know who the official leaders of the church and its organizations were a generation ago, when the Franklin Street church was particularly vigorous. Here is a list of the officials as they appear on church bulletins of 1909 and 1910.

The Stewards were Richard Seither, Recording Steward; James R. Meyers, District Steward; M. Seither, John B. Meyers, Alfred Keller.

The Board of Trustees was composed of John B. Meyers, President; J. Han Meyers, Secretary; D. X. Holderith, Treasurer; H. F. Hinrichs, John C. Kirchberg, M. Seither, F. Wm. Kirchberg.

The officers of the Ladies' Aid were: President, Mrs. E. F. Schuessler; First Vice-President, Mrs. M. Seither;

Second Vice President, Mrs. A. Plaswirth; Secretary, Mrs. E. Moppert; Treasurer, Mrs. E. Miller.

The Choir had James R. Meyers as Director. The sopranos were Mrs. L. Willis, Miss G. Miller, Miss L. Kirchberg. The contraltos were Miss G. Willis and Miss J. Miller. Tenors were H. W. Meyers and Henry Burgard. The bass was carried by J. Han Meyers and Henry Schuchardt.

Epworth League officials were: President, John Kentzel; First Vice-President, Miss Amy Hinrichs; Second Vice-President, Miss Emma Mehrtens; Third Vice-President and organist, Miss G. Willis; Secretary, H. W. Meyers; Treasurer, Miss Amy Moppert.

The Sunday School Superintendent was Richard Seither; Assistant Superintendent, Alfred Keller; Secretary, H. W. Meyers; Assistant Secretary, Luke Dearing; Treasurer, James R. Meyers; Librarian, John Kentzel; Assistant Librarian, Leon Kirchberg; Pianist, Miss Gertrude Willis.

It is recorded that on September 5, 1909, the Sunday School enrollment was 813, including the Cradle Roll and the Home Department. According to the "Apologete" this was the largest enrollment of any Sunday School in German Methodism. The Business Men's Bible class was particularly strong and active. The president of the class was H. Burgard; Vice-President and Teacher, Edw. Smith; Secretary, Fred Dinghaus; Assistant Secretary, John R. McHall; Treasurer, F. W. Kirchberg; Assistant Treasurer, D. X. Holderith.

A study of the records of the Napoleon Avenue church and its direct predecessor, the Franklin Street church, reveals a gratifying devotion and loyalty as well as a long tenure of office on the part of the officials of the church. Take as an instance the Sunday School. The superintendents from 1872 to the present have been: Henry Meyer until 1875, Henry Wellmann until 1898, Matthias Seither

until 1909, Richard Seither until 1925, E. C. Rolfs until 1939, Henry Seither, Jr., until October, 1941; Fred Dinghaus since October, 1941. Assistant Superintendents during those years have been Henry Wellmann, Matthias Seither, Richard Seither, J. Han Meyers, Alfred Keller, H. W. Knieper, Henry Burgard, F. L. Knieper until 1920, E. C. Rolfs until 1925, H. C. Hinrichs until 1927, E. D. Pearson until 1932, C. H. Free until 1936. Adult Superintendents since 1927 were Frank Jensen, sen., C. H. Free and W. Miles Pearce.

The term of office of the secretaries is even more noteworthy, in that Charles F. Pfeiffer served until 1896, H. W. Meyers until 1917, Amy Hinrichs until 1941, and Rosemary Woodard since 1941.

Treasurers were John B. Meyers until 1908, James R. Meyers until 1916, H. F. Hinrichs until 1922, Emma Dinghaus, Secretary-Treasurer until 1923; Amy Hinrichs, Secretary-Treasurer until 1936, with Henry J. Seither as assistant and serving as Treasurer. Since 1936, Paul Meyers has been Treasurer.

As Librarians are named: H. F. Hinrichs, James R. Meyers, John E. Kentzel, Leon Kirchberg, Edwin Kirchberg, Henry Burgard, Jr., Wilmer Hinrichs, Myrtle Roberts, Florence Seither.

Many others served with equal loyalty during those important years as Superintendents of the Cradle Roll, the Home Department or of the various departmental groups, or as teachers of the classes. One thinks, among others, of Mrs. A. L. Plaswirth, Amelia Ponder, Mrs. L. Moers, Mrs. R. Smith, Lena Kirchberg, Mrs. L. Willis, Louise Meyers, Mary Kentzel, Pauline Ebel, Mrs. Clyde Cato, Mrs. K. Johnson, Mrs. T. Restin Heath, Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Pearson, E. C. Harris, Roy L. Heindel, Georgia and Josie Miller, Mrs. James R. Meyers, Mrs. J. A. Johnson, Mrs. H. W. Meyers, Earl Smith, Marguerite Fehrenbach, Louise Kleinschmidt, Albert Meyers, Lyman Hein-

SOME LAY LEADERS OF OTHER YEARS WHO HAVE JOINED "THE INNUMERABLE THRONG"

FIRST ROW—J. C. KIRCHBERG, MATTHIAS SEITHER, LEOPOLD HOLDERITH.
SECOND ROW—HENRY WELLMANN, CHAS. F. PFEIFFER, JOHN B. MEYERS.
THIRD ROW—LOUIS KNIEPER, JNO. C. KIRCHBERG, H. F. HINRICHS.
FOURTH ROW—EUGENE MOPPERT, HENRY BURGARD, J. HAN MEYERS.

del, Frank Jensen, Jr., Rosalie Cook, Carrie and Nellie Mae Pearce.

In 1916 there was a Mission Sunday School at Milneburg, of which Alfred Keller was the superintendent. It was maintained several years and then officially discontinued.

For two and a half years, pending the merging of the St. Charles Avenue M. E. church with the Franklin Street church, services were conducted in a small frame church on Napoleon Avenue and South Robertson Street. The Sunday School officials for this interim period were: Superintendent, Richard Seither; Vice-Superintendent, Dr. J. E. Scott; Treasurer, Frank Loy; Secretary, Fred Dinghaus. Later the offices of Secretary and Treasurer were combined under Miss Emma Dinghaus.

The members and ministers of the Napoleon Avenue Methodist church are active in the various educational, philanthropic and inter-church movements in the city, such as Educational Associations, Parent-Teachers' Associations, the W. C. T. U., the Anti-Saloon League, the Y. M. C. A., the Y. W. C. A., the Memorial Mercy Home, the Home for Incurables, the Protestant Home for the Aged, the Seamen's Bethel, and many others. In 1908, Mr. and Mrs. John B. Meyers, Miss Louise Meyers and Mr. H. W. Meyers attended the World's Sunday School Convention in Switzerland and also visited the Holy Land.

The young people have likewise taken part in many inter-church athletic, social and religious activities. The Epworth League, at one time a very vigorous organization among the young people, since unification is in a transitional stage. The old and familiar name may be discontinued and a new name like "Methodist Youth" adopted, but without doubt the young people will get their stride and will have an organization, which will be a very helpful agency in the life of the church. For the youth and the children are the church of the future.

The church has been well represented in Institutes and Teacher Training Schools in the various churches of the city, and has several times been host to such schools. The ministers have likewise served as teachers on the faculties and in general have been spokesmen for all worthwhile movements in the community.

In addition to the regular meetings of the various official organizations of the church, all of which are rich in social contacts, there have been many happy special events in the church auditorium, the educational rooms and in the homes of the members, all of which serve to bind the members together and to make them feel the joy of Christian fellowship and the value of cooperation in religious endeavors. In recent years three "golden weddings" gave occasion for happy social gatherings in the homes of church members, as Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Hinrichs, Mr. and Mrs. O. E. Kriege, and Mr. and Mrs. D. X. Holderith received the congratulations of their friends.

The present officiary of the Napoleon Avenue Methodist church is as follows:

THE MINISTRY: Bishop, A. Frank Smith; District Superintendent, W. W. Holmes; Pastor, Hubert A. Gibbs; Retired Minister, St. Louis Conference, O. E. Kriege.

FINANCIAL and CHURCH SECRETARY, Mrs. H. W. Meyers.

CHURCH TREASURER, Henry J. Veith.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Chairman, the pastor; 1942: Emile Bernard, Sen., P. J. Rasch, J. W. Woodard; 1943: Earl Holderith, Secretary; John Kentzel, Henry Mehrtens; 1944: C. A. Loesch (deceased), T. P. Marquis, W. W. Rolfs; 1941: H. F. Hinrichs (deceased).

BOARD OF STEWARDS: Chas. H. Free, Sen., Chairman; Wm. F. LaPrade, Secretary; Henry J. Veith, Church Treasurer; Ernest Arnold, Emile Bernard, Jr.*, Fred

Dinghaus, Chas. Free, Jr., J. M. Fush, Frank Groves, N. N. Hingle, Sen., N. N. Hingle, Jr.*, H. C. Hinrichs, Paul Meyers, Eugene Moppert, Hurtis A. Nelson, W. Miles Pearce, Jr.*, W. W. Sadler, Paul M. Smith, W. J. Speer, Walter Stumpf, Robert H. Tait, Milton Trenchard, Frank Vollenweider.

COMMUNION STEWARD, Mrs. Paul M. Smith. RECORDING STEWARD, Mrs. H. W. Meyers.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Paul M. Smith, Chairman; Ernest Arnold, Chas. H. Free, Sen., Wm. F. LaPrade, N. N. Hingle, Sen., Paul Meyers, Robert H. Tait, Milton Trenchard, Henry J. Veith.

HOUSE COMMITTEE: W. W. Rolfs, Chairman; P. J. Rasch, Vice-Chairman; Emile Bernard, Sen., Earl Holderith, Henry Mehrtens.

PARSONAGE COMMITTEE: Mrs. Emile Bernard, Mrs. Chas. H. Free, Mrs. P. J. Rasch.

DISTRICT PARSONAGE COMMITTEE: Mrs. P. J. Rasch.

CHURCH SCHOOL: General Superintendent, Fred H. Dinghaus; General Secretary, Rosemary Woodard; Treasurer, Paul Meyers; Superintendent, Adult Department, W. Miles Pearce; Superintendent, Youth Division, Daisy Zansler; Superintendent, Children's Department, Mrs. Dolores Damonte.

Ladies' Bible Class: President, Annie Stewart; Vice-President, Mrs. S. D. Drell; Secretary, Mrs. W. Miles Pearce; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. P. J. Rasch; Teasurer, Mrs. J. W. Woodard; Teacher, Mrs. N. N. Hingle.

Men's Bible Class: Teacher, O. E. Kriege.

Youth Adult Class: President, Yola Romeo; Secretary-Treasurer, Paul H. Meyers; Teacher, William LaPrade.

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* In the armed service of our country.

Youth Division: Senior Department—Superintendent, Daisy Zansler; Teacher, Domenic Albano. Intermediate Department—Superintendent, Mrs. Ernest Arnold; Teachers, Louise Farley and Olive Drell. Secretary, Senior-Intermediate Departments, Mrs. G. R. Garner. Junior Department—Superintendent, Mrs. E. M. Holderith; Teachers, Mrs. C. B. Donellan, S. T. Bauer, Florence Seither and Naomi Sadler.

Children's Division: Primary Department—Superintendent, Carrie Sadler; Secretary, Mrs. John Kentzel; Teachers, Mrytle Moppert and Marian Marquis. Beginners Department—Superintendent, Louise Kleinschmidt; Teachers, Mrs. Frank Groves, Mrs. Nellie Mae Cupit, Mrs. Dolores Damonte.

BOARD OF EDUCATION: O. E. Kriege, Chairman; Mrs. Dolores Damonte, Fred Dinghaus, Miss Marguerite Fehrenbach, Miss Frances Goetz, Mrs. Frank Groves, Miss Amy Hinrichs, Mrs. Earl Holderith, W. Miles Pearce, Sen., Miss Eleanor Pearce, Miss Daisy Zansler.

EPWORTH LEAGUE: Ernest Arnold, Counselor; Neva Brown, Secretary-Treasurer; Domenic Albano, Chairman, Worship Com.; Ruth Helms, Chairman, Recreation Com.; Janice Brady, Chairman, Missions Com.; Elizabeth Barron, Chairman, World Friendship and Community Service Com.

THE CHOIR: Miss Gertrude Willis, organist and chorister; sopranos, Miss Marion Marquis, Mrs. Eleanor Wright, Mrs. Jennie Kirchberg, Miss Annie Stewart. Altos, Mrs. H. W. Meyers, Miss Elizabeth Meyers. Tenor, Fred Dinghaus. Basses, Henry Schuchardt, Chas H. Free, Sen.

HEAD USHERS: Emile J. Bernard, Sen., Eugene Moppert.

FELLOWSHIP CLUB: Ernest Arnold, President; Fred Dinghaus, Vice-President; Chas Free, Jr., Secre-

tary; Domenic Albano, Associate Secretary; Paul Meyers, Treasurer.

CITY MISSION BOARD: Mrs. Earl Holderith, O. E. Kriege, Mrs. Paul M. Smith, Henry J. Veith.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY: Mrs. Paul M. Smith, President; Mrs. H. W. Meyers, Vice-President; Miss Gertrude Willis, Treasurer; Mrs. Henry Seither, Sen., Recording Secretary; Mrs. J. Han Meyers, Corresponding Secretary.

WOMAN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE: President, Mrs. F. R. Groves; Vice-President, Mrs. Harry W. Brown; Secretary, Annie Stewart; Treasurer, Mrs. J. W. Woodard; Christian Social Relations and Local Church Activities, Mrs. Chas. Free; Student Work, Mrs. O. E. Kriege; Literature and Publications, Mrs. David Hunter; Publicity, Mrs. S. D. Drell; Supplies, Mrs. P. J. Rasch; Spiritual Life, Mrs. Hubert A. Gibbs; Membership, Mrs. E. M. Holderith; St. Marks' Board, Mesdames Woodard, Holderith, Rasch and Groves; Missions and Church Extension, Mesdames Groves and Holderith; Education, Mesdames Groves and Holderith.

The Napoleon Avenue Methodist church and its forerunners have always had a strong and active body of laymen, who have made their influence felt not alone in the affairs of the church, but in the professional, business and civic life of the community.

In relation to the church at large the record has been good. The following lay members have been elected to represent the Southern Conference at the General Conference of the M. E. church: Henry Wellmann, Omaha, Nebraska, 1892; J. B. Meyers, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 1912; James R. Meyers, Springfield, Massachusetts, 1924; H. J. Veith, Atlantic City, New Jersey, 1932.

A number of its Sunday School and church members have become ministers of the gospel. In the early period

SOME PRESENT DAY LEADERS

First Row—HENRY J. VEITH, Trustee and Church Treasurer; MRS. H. W. MEYERS, Church and Financial Sercetary; MISS GERTRUDE WILLIS, Organist and Chorister.

Second Row—PAUL M. SMITH, Chairman, Finance Committee; MRS. PAUL M. SMITH, President Women's Auxiliary; CHARLES H. FREE, Chairman, Board of Stewards.

Third Row—MISS AMY HINRICHS, Secretary of the Sunday School for Twenty-five Years; MRS. FRANK GROVES, President, Woman's Society of Christian Service; MISS ANNIE STEWART, President, Ladies' Bible Class.

Fourth Row—H. G. MEHRTENS, Trustee, 1922—1942; PHIL J. RASCH, Trustee and House Committee; MRS. CHARLES H. FREE, Chairman, Committee on Christian Social Relations.

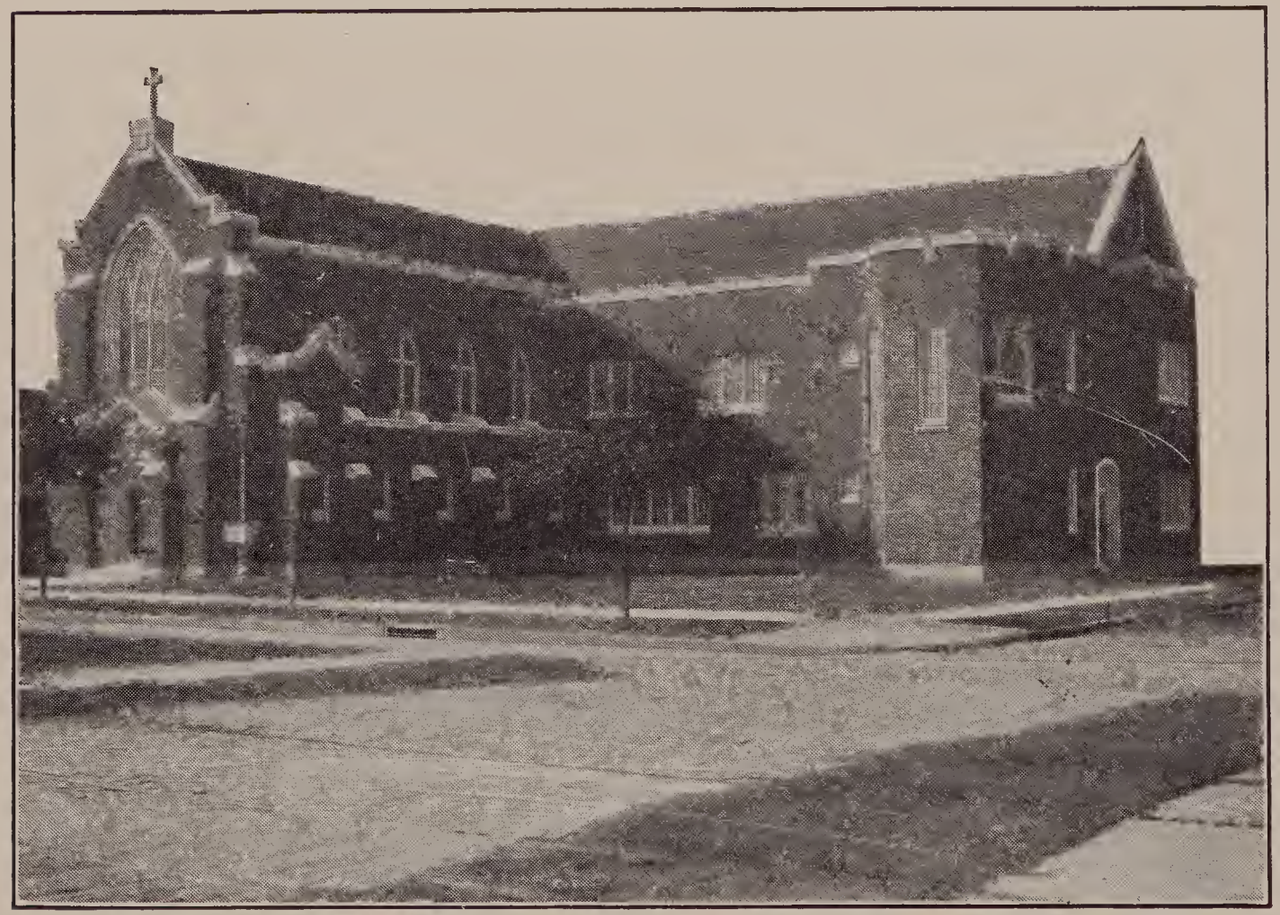
(For other church leaders see page 12.)

of the church there were Carl Bremer, John M. Pauli, Nicholas Brickwedel and Jacob Ueber; in more recent years: F. J. Mehrtens (Evangelical church), Frank Jensen, Jr., and Ofney Ellis. Into the parsonage as a minister's wife went Miss Amy Moppert (Mrs. H. W. Bahler).

John E. Kienle went from this church to Central Wesleyan College, in Warrenton, Missouri, graduating there in 1910, and is now professor of the Social Sciences in the Glendale, California, Junior College. He will be remembered as the son of the Rev. J. J. Kienle, one-time pastor of this church, and as the brother of Mrs. James R. Meyers.

The organist and choir have rendered invaluable help in the public services of the church and too much praise cannot be given them. Miss Gertrude Willis has served faithfully and efficiently for a number of years as organist and chorister. The choir is present for both the morning and the evening services, and besides leading in the congregational singing, renders special musical numbers. A Junior Choir is also in preparation for the evening service and sometimes the Fellowship Club serves as a male chorus.

There have always been a number of public school teachers and officers among the members of the church. Among these there are at present: Miss Amy Hinrichs, Principal, Audubon School, who has been president of the State Teachers' Association and was in 1939-1940 President of the National Education Association; Miss Marguerite Fehrenbach, Principal, McDonogh No. 10 School; Mrs. H. W. Meyers, Secretary to the Principal, McMain Girls' High School; Mr. W. Miles Pearce, Mr. Edwin Leland, Miss Myrtle Moppert, Miss C. C. Veith, Miss Violet Vogel, Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Cupit and Miles Pearce as classroom teachers, and Mrs. Mae Minter Fush Pazon as Secretary at McDonald No. 19. Naturally, with many high schools and several fine colleges in New Orleans, many of



NAPOLEON AVENUE METHODIST CHURCH

the young people of the church have taken advantage of these educational opportunities and have completed college courses. Others have attended colleges and universities elsewhere.

There have been a number of persons in official positions in Methodist institutions in the city and other prominent leaders who identified themselves and their families with this church. Among these were the Rev. Dr. J. E. Scott, for thirty-five years a missionary in India, scholar and author, an active and greatly beloved member of this church until his sudden death in the recreation rooms in 1924; Mr. Frank Jensen and family valued members until their removal to Dallas, Texas, when he was promoted to be General Passenger Agent of the Texas and Pacific Railway; Dr. Charles M. Melden and Dr. O. E. Kriege, presidents, and Prof. Roy L. Heindel, Dean of New Orleans University, with their families; Dr. R. T. Fuller, Dr. T. Restin Heath, Dr. H. W. Knight, superintendents of Flint-Goodridge Hospital, and their families; the superintendents of Peck Home, Mrs. Fisher, Mrs. Montgomery, Miss Neal, Mrs. Landon, Miss Crawford and Miss Porter; the workers in Faith Kindergarten, especially Miss Eva Callaway; Miss Cora Peet (now Mrs. Hammond) and others of the Italian Center. Since October, 1941, Mr. and Mrs. Harry W. Brown have had charge of the Protestant Home for the Aged, as Superintendent and Matron. They with their four children are members of the Napoleon Avenue Methodist church.

Ministers who have served the Napoleon Avenue Methodist church and its predecessors:

Peter Schmucker, March 8, 1842, to May 5, 1842, and again early in 1848. A church was built on Erato Street. The work was related to the Mississippi Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The Erato Street church was the first home of the congregation.

2. Carl Bremer, May 2, 1842, to January 7, 1847.

3. Nicholas Brickwedel, January, 1845, to January, 1847, a co-worker with Bremer. The Erato Street church, after the division of Methodism, came into the Louisiana Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, until 1869.

4. Carl Riehl, January, 1847, to January, 1848.

5. John Martin Hofer, January, 1848, to December 14, 1853.

6. John M. Pauli, December 14, 1853, to December 16, 1858. A frame church was built on Dryades Street and the one one Erato Street was sold. This was the second home of the congregation.

7. Frederick W. Traeger, December 16, 1858, to December 5, 1860.

8. Jacob Ueber, December 5, 1860, to December 11, 1861.

9. John M. Pauli, December 11, 1861, to December, 1865. A new brick church replaced the frame one. This was the third home of the congregation.

10. Jacob Ueber, December, 1865, to December 12, 1866.

11. John B. H. Ahrens, December 12, 1866, to April 13, 1868.

12. Jacob Ueber, April 13, 1868, to January 13, 1869. The Dryades Street congregation was divided and fifty members withdrew and formed the Felicity Street Methodist Episcopal church. They rented a hall on Felicity Street. This was the fourth home of the congregation. The society now came into the Mississippi Conference of the M. E. Church.

13. Carl Biel, January 13, 1869, to December 22, 1870. Louisiana Conference, M. E. Church.

14. Philip Barth, December, 1870, to October, 1870.

15. Jacob Ueber, October, 1870, to February 19, 1871.

16. Carl Ska, December 22, 1870, to July 21, 1871.

17. Ph. B. Weber, July 21, 1871, to January 28, 1872.

18. J. C. Speckman, January 28, 1872, to January 3, 1873. A new church had been built on Franklin Street and the title became "First German M. E. Church," Louisiana Conference. This was the fifth home of the congregation.

19. Louis Allinger, January 3, 1873, to December 6, 1876. The church now came into the newly organized Southern German Conference of the M. E. Church.

20. Jacob Braun, December 6, 1876, to November 28, 1879.

21. G. Dosdall, November 28, 1879, to November 24, 1881.

22. Daniel Matthaei, November 24, 1881, to December 11, 1884.

23. John Jacob Kienle, December 11, 1884, to December 2, 1886.

24. Bruno Boetzinger, December 2, 1886, to January 31, 1889.

25. John C. Groth, January 31, 1886, to December 2, 1891.

26. Henry Dietz, December 9, 1891, to November 23, 1893.

27. Daniel Matthaei, November 23, 1893, to November 24, 1896.

28. John Pluenneke, November 24, 1896, to November 29, 1899.

29. William A. Moers, November 29, 1899, to November 22, 1906. The official name of the church now became "Franklin Street M. E. Church."

30. H. F. Bohmfalk, November 22, 1906, to June, 1908.

31. A. A. Leifeste, June, 1908, to September 3, 1908.

32. E. F. Schuessler, December 3, 1908, to November 20, 1913.

33. B. E. Breihan, November 20, 1913, to November 11, 1915.

34. E. F. Schuessler, November 11, 1915, to November 14, 1918.

35. Philip Deschner, November 14, 1918, to May, 1927. During the years of the merger with the St. Charles Avenue M. E. Church, the title became "Franklin-Napoleon M. E. Church." At this time the present fine church was erected and thus became the sixth home of the congregation.

36. H. E. Roos, assistant pastor, 1918.

37. H. W. Bahler, assistant pastor, 1919.

38. Walter Bradley Morgan, May, 1927, to December 12, 1931. The church now came into the newly organized "Southern Conference" of the M. E. Church.

39. B. H. Fleming, December 12, 1931, to December 6, 1933.

40. John J. Brodhead, December 6, 1933, to August 1, 1937.

41. W. R. Polhamus, August 1, 1937, to May 1, 1940. With unification of Methodism the title of the church now became "The Napoleon Avenue Methodist Church," and it came into relation with the Louisiana Conference of the Methodist Church.

42. Hubert Arthur Gibbs, May 1, 1940, to the present date.

MINISTERS OF RECENT YEARS

FIRST ROW—H. F. BOHMFALK, A. A. LEIFESTE.
SECOND ROW—E. F. SCHUESSLER, B. E. BREIHAN, PHIL DESCHNER.
THIRD ROW—H. W. BAHLER, WALTER BRADLEY MORGAN, B. H. FLEMING.
FOURTH ROW—JOHN J. BRODHEAD, W. R. POLHAMUS.

As this book goes to press the world is again in the throes of a Great World War. It is distressing and humiliating to record that after two thousand years of preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ, Christian nations have found no other way of settling international problems than by having recourse to mass slaughter in another great war. America's participation in this dreadful conflict seems to be justified because of the ruthless attack of aggressor nations and because those principles are at stake for which our nation has stood from the beginning: freedom of conscience, freedom of religious worship, freedom of assembly, freedom of speech and of the press, and of the right of self expression at the polls; principles which we believe are in harmony with the spirit of Jesus Christ.

Just as in the First World War the young men of this church and Sunday School responded to the call of the country, so again this year a number of our men have already answered the call, either as volunteers or as selectees. Among these are the following: Emile Bernard, Jr., W. Miles Pearce, Jr., Maurice Tichenor, Eugene Schaefer, Jr., Norwood N. Hingle, Jr., Donald Singer, Mack Wilson, Edwin McQueen and John Seither. Others may soon be called. May God in mercy protect them and restore them to their homes again in due time. May the oath and pledge of loyalty to the flag be paralleled by their loyalty to their God, their homes and their church.

A Red Cross unit was organized in this church and a large group of women are meeting every week to make articles that may be needed by our soldier boys or by the victims of the war in various lands. Many of the members have also registered for Civilian Defense and stand ready to serve the country in every way that is open to them. The prayer in every heart must surely be that, when this frenzy of war is over, the Prince of Peace may have a place at the council tables of the deliberating na-

THE PRESENT PASTOR OF THE NAPOLEON AVENUE METHODIST CHURCH, THE REV. HUBERT A. GIBBS, MRS. GIBBS, AND MISS SARA JO GIBBS

tions and that a new era of righteousness and justice and brotherhood among the nations of the earth may be ushered in.

There follows now a list of the present members of the Napoleon Avenue Methodist church. It is a goodly number and among them are many true saints of God. Too much praise cannot be given those who represent families of long standing in the church, yet equal praise must be given those who have come into the fellowship of the church in more recent years and who are assuming places of leadership and responsibility in the church and its various organizations.

Among the 730 persons named on this Roster and the Supplemental List there are about ten "Associate Members." Fifty, or more, although no longer residing in New Orleans, have not as yet requested Letters of Dismissal, hence their names are retained on the roll.

May the great Head of the Church, who has blessed the efforts of the people of this church through a hundred years, be with them still and lead the Napoleon Avenue Methodist church on to a greater and finer service in the years to come!

ROSTER OF THE PRESENT MEMBERS

Of the Napoleon Avenue Methodist Church

Abbott, Mrs. P.
Abbott, Albert C.
Abernathy, A. L.
Adams, Marshall
Adams, Samuel
Adams, Mrs. Thornton
Albano, Angelo L.
Albano, Mrs. Angelo L.
Albano, Domenic
Albano, Mrs. Domenic
Albano, Gloria
Alexander, Louise
Alexander, Mrs. T. E.
Alexander, Thomas
Allen, Mary E.
Althans, Mrs. Charles
Altman, John
Anderson, Mrs. L. T.
Anderson, Marion
Anderson, Mrs. R. L.
Angelette, Mrs. A. M.
Armbruster, Chas. C., Jr.
Armbruster, Hazel H.
Arnold, Ernest A.
Arnold, Mrs. Ernest A.
Aschenbach, Betty L.
Austen, Mrs. L.
Austin, Le Roy
Avegno, Mrs. E. L.
Azzarello, Mrs. Joseph

Babylon, Chas. C., Sr.
Babylon, Mrs. Chas. C.
Babylon, Chas. C., Jr.
Babylon, Henry A.
Babylon, Mrs. Henry A.
Bardt, Frederick W.
Bardt, Mrs. Frederick W.
Barron, Robbie E.
Basnett, Robert
Bauer, S. T.
Bauer, Mrs. S. T.
Beard, Mrs. B. Z.
Becnel, Mrs. E. H.
Becnel, Warren
Bergmeyer, Fred R.
Bergmeyer, Mrs. Fred R
Bernard, Emile J., Sr.
Bernard, Mrs. Emile J.
Bernard, Emile J., Jr.
Birkel, Eugene, Sr.
Bohmfalk, Arthur W., Sr.
Boisfontaine, A. S.
Boisfontaine, Mrs. A. S.
Bollinger, Mrs. F. W.
Bouyson, Sidney
Bowdoin, Eleanor
Brady, Janice
Bridges, Earl
Briggs, Mrs. E. J.
Brown, Douglas
Brown, Harry W.
Brown, Mrs. Harry W.
Brown, Harry W., Jr.
Brown, Neva
Bryan, Louis C.

Bryan, Mrs. Louis C.
Bryan, Louis
Bryant, Mrs. Mabel
Bulot, Freda
Burke, Louise
Byrne, Mary
Butler, Mrs. E. R.
Butler, Patricia
Butler, Raymond

Cafiero, Mrs. K.
Cafiero, Katherine
Callaway, Eva
Calvo, Mrs. C.
Campagna, Mrs. M.
Campagna, Maurice, Jr.
Campbell, David M.
Caple, Mrs. Paul E.
Carl, Mrs. E. L., Sr.
Carl, E. L., Jr.
Carl, Mrs. E. L., Jr.
Carl, Bernard
Carl, Lester
Carl, Walter
Carlin, Mrs. L. S.
Chalstrom, Mrs. Harry E.
Chalstrom, Harry E., Jr.
Chalstrom, Horace B.
Chapman, Charles
Chapman, Ira
Chevis, Mrs. A. S.
Chevis, Audrey
Chilton, Dollie
Christon, George
Clark, Carrie C.
Colorado, Mrs. A.
Colley, Mrs. E. C.
Cook, Mrs. Milton
Cook, James
Cook, Milton, Jr.
Cook, Sidney
Cook, W. C.
Cook, Mrs. W. C.
Cooper, Mrs. E.
Cooper, Jack
Cooper, Margaret
Corgill, Mrs. Donald A.
Crawford, W. P.
Culotta, Joseph
Culotta, Mrs. Joseph
Cupit, Cleon L.
Cupit, Mrs. Cleon L.

Dabney, Margaret
Dabney, Mrs. Ward
Damonte, Lowell
Damonte, Mrs. Dolores B.
Daray, Edwin J., Sr.
Daray, Edwin J., Jr.
Daray, John
Daray, Lillie Mae
Daray, Miriam
Davies, Mrs. Grace
Davies, Veda G.
Davis, Mrs. Addie
Davis, Mrs. R. F.
Davis, Charles W.
Davis, Russell
Deen, Ira
Deutschmann, Mrs. Irma G.
Deykin, Mrs. H. J.

Deykin, Herbert J., Jr.
Deykin, Leemae
Dinghaus, Mrs. Anna
Dinghaus, Frederick H.
Dinghaus, Mrs. Frederick H.
Dittmer, Lawrence
Donellan, Mrs. C. B., Jr.
Dorr, Mrs. N. C.
Dotterweich, E. G.
Dotterweich, Mrs. E. G.
Dowdle, Ellen
Drell, Mrs. S. D.
Drell, Leona
Drell, Olive
Drell, Theo L., Sr.
Drell, Mrs. Theo L., Sr.
Drell, Theo L., Jr.
Duty, Mrs. W.

Ealum, Anna L.
Ebeling, Mrs. L. P.
Eller, Mrs. R.
Eller, Harold
Embry, Milan C.
Embry, Mrs. Milan C.
Ermon, Mrs. E. J.
Esparros, Mrs. E. A.
Esparros, Christine
Eversmeyer, Walter H., Sr.
Eversmeyer, Mrs. W. H., Sr.
Eversmeyer, Walter H., Jr.
Eversmeyer, Dorothy
Ewing, Mrs. V. L.
Ewing, V. L., Jr.
Extine, Marcelle
Ezell, Elizabeth

Fath, Mrs. Charles
Fehrenbach, Karl
Fehrenbach, Marguerite
Felker, Mrs. Mary
Ferraez, Anita
Ferraez, Edith
Ferraez, Elsie
Ferraez, Flora
Ferraez, Hortense
Ferraez, Miguel
Ferrer, E. Harry
Ferrer, Mrs. E. Harry
Fogg, E. W.
Fogg, Mrs. E. W.
Fogg, Bessie
Fox, Randolph
Free, Charles H., Sr.
Free, Mrs. Charles H., Sr.
Free, Charles H., Jr.
Free, Jeanne
Freeman, Mrs. E. L.
Freeman, Mrs. Pearl
Frymire, Kermit
Frymire, Robert
Fush, John M.
Fush, Mrs. John M.
Fush, Elizabeth
Fush, Walter Hays

Gambino, Mrs. M. M.
Garner, Mrs. Glenn
Gemeinhardt, C. J.
Gemeinhardt, Mrs. C. J.
Gemeinhardt, Vera Claire
Gemeinhardt, Walter
Gibbs, Mrs. Hubert A.
Gibbs, Sarah Jo
Gillis, Fred

Gillis, Mrs. Fred
Gillis, Mrs. Jennie
Goebels, Mrs. B.
Goebels, Rosemary L.
Goesling, Mrs. F.
Goldsby, Mrs.
Good, W. S.
Good, Mrs. W. S.
Good, Elvie
Gorenflo, Mrs. E.
Gorman, Mrs. E.
Gorman, Edmond
Gorman, Harold
Gorman, Ira
Gorman, Lois
Graeber, Mrs. Marion
Groves, Frank R., Sr.
Groves, Mrs. Frank R.
Groves, Frank R., Jr.

Hanhart, Mrs. Henry
Harry, Howard E.
Harry, Mrs. Howard E.
Hawkins, Mrs. Ward S.
Hattaway, Mrs. M. M.
Heideman, Mrs. A. T.
Heideman, Katherine
Heron, Mrs. C. B.
Helms, Ruth
Hingle, Norwood N., Sr.
Hingle, Mrs. Norwood N.
Hingle, Norwood N., Jr.
Hingle, Beverly
Hinrichs, Mrs. H. F.
Hinrichs, Amy H.
Hinrichs, Clarence
Hinrichs, Henry C.
Hinrichs, Mrs. Henry C.
Hinrichs, Jack
Hinrichs, Walter
Hoffman, Doris
Hoffman, Joyce
Hoffman, Mrs. Melba
Hoffman, William
Hoffstadt, Mrs. John
Hoggatt, Mrs. H. H.
Hoggatt, Geraldine
Holderith, D. X.
Holderith, Mrs. D. X.
Holderith, Earl M.
Holderith, Mrs. Earl M.
Holderith, Harold
Holzenthal, Mrs. Dorothy
Hopkins, J. A. T.
Hopkins, Mrs. J. A. T.
Hopkins, Phil Rasch
Hopkins, Taylor
Howell, Mary Virginia
Hughes, Grafton
Hullinghorst, Mrs. G. J.
Hunter, David
Hunter, Mrs. David
Huther, Roland
Huther, Audrey
Huxen, Daniel
Huxen, Hervey
Huxen, William

Ivey, Mrs. D. B.

Johnson, Mrs. Archie
Johnston, Clyde
Johnston, Virginia
Jones, Taylor

Jones, Mrs. Taylor
Jones, Mrs. W. W.
Jourdan, Mrs. T. C.
Jourdan, Claire
Jung, Rudolph, Sr.
Jung, Mrs. Rudolph
Jung, Emelda
Jung, Rudolph, Jr.

Keaghey, Mrs. P. L.
Kedney, W. I.
Keller, Mrs. John
Keller, Edwin
Kendall, Mrs. Mary
Kendall, Clyde
Kendall, Martha
Keneker, John H.
Keneker, Mrs. John H.
Keneker, Clara
Keneker, Dorothy
Kentzel, Emma
Kentzel, John
Kentzel, Mrs. John
Kentzel, John E.
Kentzel, Mary
Kessler, A.
Kessler, Mrs. A.
Kessler, Edwin
Kessler, Lucille
Kimble, A. F.
Kimble, Mrs. A. F.
Kimble, Arthur
Kimble, Henry F.
Kimble, Julius
King, Mrs. C. N.
Kirchberg, Frederick Wm.
Kirchberg, Mrs. J. C., Sr.
Kirchberg, Harry M.
Kirchberg, Mrs. Harry M.
Kirchberg, John C. E.
Kirchberg, Leon
Kirchberg, Mrs. Jennie
Kirchberg, Anna J.
Kirchberg, Lena
Kirchberg, Marion J.
Kirchberg, Mrs. Marion J.
Kleinschmidt, Anna
Kleinschmidt, Louise
Klotzbach, F. V.
Klotzbach, Mrs. F. V.
Knollman, John
Krepale, Mary
Kriege, Mrs. O. E.
Krummel, Henry J.
Krummel, Mrs. Henry J.
Kuhnell, William

Lamm, Harrell
Lampo, Mrs. C. J.
Landers, Mrs. A. F.
Landon, Mrs. Florence
Landry, Mrs. J.
Landry, Juanita
Lane, W. Lindsay
Lane, Mrs. W. L.
LaPrade, William F.
Lasker, Mrs. Milton
Lasker, Milton, Jr.
Leland, Edwin A., Sr.
Leland, Mrs. Edwin A., Sr.
Leland, Edwin A., Jr.
Lemoine, Mrs. J. W.
Lenoir, Dorothy
Lockhart, Joseph

Lockhart, William
Loesch, Mrs. C. A.
Logel, Mrs. D. R.
Logel, Carolyn
Lonergan, Mrs. C. S.
Lonergan, Cecile
Lonergan, Maurice
Long, Mrs. E. G.
Lowe, Mrs. J. G.
Lynne, Mrs. Bela

Maltry, Emile, Jr.
Marcade, Mrs. J. V.
Marquis, T. P.
Marquis, Marion
Mastrangelo, Mrs. Joseph
Mattison, Mrs. R. W.
Mayfield, Mrs. O.
McCarty, Alex
McCarty, Joel
McClamrock, C. B.
McClamrock, Mrs. C. B.
McConnell, Marcellus
McConnell, Robert
McDermott, Mrs. A.
McLaughlin, Thomas, Sr.
McLaughlin, Mrs. Thomas
McLaughlin, Thos., Jr.
McQueen, Edward
Mehrtens, Emma
Mehrtens, Henry G.
Meyer, Mrs. F. M.
Meyer, June
Meyers, Albert J.
Meyers, Mrs. J. Han
Meyers, Paul H.
Meyers, Mrs. Paul H.
Meyers, Mrs. H. W.
Meyers, Elizabeth H.
Miller, J. B.
Miller, Mrs. J. B.
Miller, Dorothy
Moers, Mrs. Louis
Moore, Joy
Moore, June
Moppert, Eugene M., Sr.
Moppert, Mrs. Eugene M.
Moppert, Eugene M., Jr.
Moppert, Lloyd
Moppert, Mabel
Moppert, Myrtle
Morgan, A. Harriman
Morrison, Mrs. Benjamin
Muller, Richard

Neal, Eleanor
Nelson, Hurtis A.
Nelson, Mrs. Hurtis A.
Nelson, Mrs. James
Nicholas, Mrs. A.
Nicholas, Homer
North, Leslie, Sr.
North, Mrs. Leslie
North, Catherine
North, Dorothy
North, Leslie, Jr.
North, Thayer
North, Virginia

Obiol, Mrs. H. E.
Ourso, Mrs. H. J.
Ourso, Herbert J., Jr.
Owens, Mrs. L. R.

Palmisano, Mrs. A.
Palmisano, Angelo
Palmisano, Anthony
Palmisano, Catherine
Parham, Mrs. D. C.
Pazon, Mrs. Joseph
Pearce, W. Miles, Sr.
Pearce, Mrs. W. Miles
Pearce, W. Miles, Jr.
Pelias, Mrs. M. S.
Pennington, Agnes
Perrin, Mrs. V. R.
Perrin, V. R., Jr.
Pfeffer, Mrs. W. C.
Phillips, Hilda
Picou, Theodore
Picou, Mrs. Theodore
Picou, Ruth
Pioth, Mrs. Charles
Porter, Bessie
Prats, Mrs. R.

Rahders, Mrs. John H.
Rasch, Jacob, Sr.
Rasch, Mrs. Jacob
Rasch, Jacob, Jr.
Rasch, Allen
Rasch, Hattie
Rasch, Iris
Rasch, Mildred
Rasch, Milton
Rasch, Shirley
Rasch, Philip J.
Rasch, Mrs. Philip J.
Rasch, Gustave O.
Rayner, Mrs. Addie
Richmond, Mrs. Adele
Rillieux, Mrs. Clarence
Ripp, Frank A., Sr.
Ripp, Mrs. Frank A.
Ritter, Mrs. Albert S.
Robards, Mrs. Charles M.
Roberts, Mrs. H. S.
Robertson, Milton
Robertson, Virginia
Robertson, William H.
Robertson, Mrs. William H.
Rolfs, Alvin
Rolfs, Mrs. S.
Rolfs, Warren W.
Rooney, Robert J.
Rooney, Mrs. Robert J.
Ross, J. F.
Ross, Mrs. J. F.
Rousseo, Mrs. Frank

Sadler, Harry C., Sr.
Sadler, Mrs. Harry C.
Sadler, Dorothy
Sadler, Harry C., Jr.
Sadler, Naomi
Sadler, Mrs. W. W., Sr.
Sadler, Carrye
Sadler, Lazelle
Sadler, Mathilda
Sadler, William W., Jr.
Sadler, Mrs. William W., Jr.
Sadler, Garland
Saillard, Alice
Saillard, Robert
Saint, Mrs. Hugh
Sarjonan, Mrs. Charles
Saterfiel, Melvin B.
Saterfiel, Mrs. Melvin B.

Schaeffer, Eugene, Sr.
Schaeffer, Mrs. Eugene
Schaeffer, Eugene, Jr.
Schaeffer, Leo
Scheibe, Henry
Scheibe, Henrietta
Scherer, Ludwig
Schmidt, Audrey
Schmidt, James
Schultz, Mrs. A. W.
Schultz, Sylvia
Schweickhardt, Mrs. Louis
Seeger, Thelma
Seither, Florence
Seither, Henry J., Sr.
Seither, Mrs. Henry J., Sr.
Seither, Henry J., Jr.
Seither, Mrs. Henry J., Jr.
Seither, John M., Sr.
Seither, Mrs. John M.
Seither, John M., Jr.
Seither, Ruth
Seither, Richard F.
Seither, Mrs. Richard F.
Seybold, Mrs. Oscar
Singer, Mrs. W. G.
Singer, Donald
Sistrunk, E.
Sistrunk, Mrs. E.
Skinner, Eva Ellen
Smith, Earl H.
Smith, Edwin G.
Smith, Mrs. Edwin G.
Smith, John P.
Smith, Muriel
Smith, Paul M., Sr.
Smith, Mrs. Paul M.
Smith, Paul M., Jr.
Smith, Shirley M.
Smith, Mrs. Robert
South, Mrs. Jessie
South, John
Sparling, Jean
Springer, Mrs. Clarence
Speer, W. J.
Speer, Mrs. W. J.
Steele, Henry A.
Steele, Mrs. Henry A.
Steele, Mrs. John
Steele, Howard
Steele, Samuel D.
Steele, Mrs. Samuel D.
Steele, Sam D., Jr.
Steele, Walter
Stewart, Annie E.
Strong, Doris
Studyvin, Wilmer
Stumpf, Emile
Stumpf, Eugene
Stumpf, J. W. K.
Stumpf, Mrs. J. W. K.
Stumpf, Mrs. Mae
Stumpf, Walter E.
Stumpf, Mrs. Walter E.

Tanner, Chester
Tanner, Ory
Tanner, R. B.
Tanner, Mrs. R. B.
Tait, Robert H.
Tait, Mrs. Robert H.
Tichenor, Mary
Tichenor, Maurice
Tinsley, Al

Trapano, Mrs. Evelyn
Trapp, Mrs. W. B.
Trenchard, Mrs. L. L.
Trenchard, Milton J.
Trenchard, Mrs. Milton J.
Treigle, Mrs. W. J.
Treigle, Merville
Treigle, Weston

Van, Bruce B.
Veith, Frederick
Veith, Henry J., Sr.
Verlander, Mrs. H. G.
Verlander, Elaine
Vignes, Mrs. Joseph
Vogel, Violet
Vollenweider, Frank W., Sr.
Vollenweider, Mrs. Frank W.
Vollenweider, Frank W., Jr.
Vonderhaar, Mrs. Raymond

Wagner, Mrs. Emilie
Wagner, Richard
Walden, R. Emmett
Walden, Mrs. R. Emmett
Walden, Calvin
Wallace, Mrs. Mary
Wax, Mary M.
Wedge, Adele
Wedge, Myrtle
Wegman, Mrs. A. J.
Weill, Carolyn
Wells, Mrs. H. C.
Wells, Vera Anne
Wenger, Mrs. J. A.
Wenger, Beverly
Wenger, Rosemary
Wenzel, J. C., Sr.
Wenzel, Mrs. J. C.
Wessel, Mrs. J. O.
Westerman, Mrs. W. E.
Westerman, Ruth
White, Langston
White, Mrs. Langston
Wiggin, Mrs. Charles
Willen, Mrs. Marion R.
Willis, Gertrude M.
Wilson, Mrs. F. L.
Wilson, Mack
Woodard, J. W.
Woodard, Mrs. J. W.
Woodard, Rosemary
Woodruff, Wyndham
Woodruff, Mrs. Wyndham
Wright, Mrs. E.
Wright, Eleanor

Young, Duncan F.
Young, Mrs. Sidney
Young, T. D.

Zansler, Allen
Zansler, Mrs. Allen
Zansler, Daisy
Zansler, Gretchen
Zansler, L. D.
Zansler, Mrs. L. D.
Zeller, Earl J.
Zeller, Mrs. Earl J.

SUPPLEMENTAL LIST

Ban, Eunice
Barbay, Mrs. E.
Barbay, E.
Barbay, Ethel
Bentley, R. W.
Bentley, Mrs. R. W.
Boone, Bessie
Brown, Louis

Colwet, Mildred
Chatelain, Mrs. C. J.
Coleman, Meta Lee
Collins, Harry
Collins, Thos.
Colombel, Gladys
Conerley, Sue L.

David, Mrs. Catherine
Davis, Mrs. Annie
Dailey, Mrs. W.
Duffy, Mrs. Edith
Duffy, Margaret

Eldredge, Dorothy
Eldredge, Wm.
Ellis, Arthur
Ellison, Martha A.

Fiducia, Mrs. J. V.
Freychinaud, Lillian

Gauslin, Marie Louise
Gelvin, Horace
Gelvin, Mrs. Lucille
Greathouse, Robt.

Hartman, Iona
Hawley, Joseph
Hawley, Mrs. Annie
Honeycutt, J. B.
Honeycutt, Mrs. J. B.
Honeycutt, J. B., Jr.
Honeycutt, Llewelyn
Hunt, Mrs. G. E.

Jordan, Virginia

King, Mrs. C. N.

Lovel, Mrs. Wm.
Loeffler, Mrs. Jennie

Maddox, Emory
Maxwell, Robert
Milliken, Mrs. Flora
Moore, Mrs. L. G.
Moore, Mary V.
Moore, Elizabeth
McGregor, Miss Jennie
McWhorter, Herbert
McWhorter, Mrs. Herbert
McWhorter, Margaret
McWhorter, Mary F.

Norton, Jeannette

O'Rourke, Mrs. Adelaede

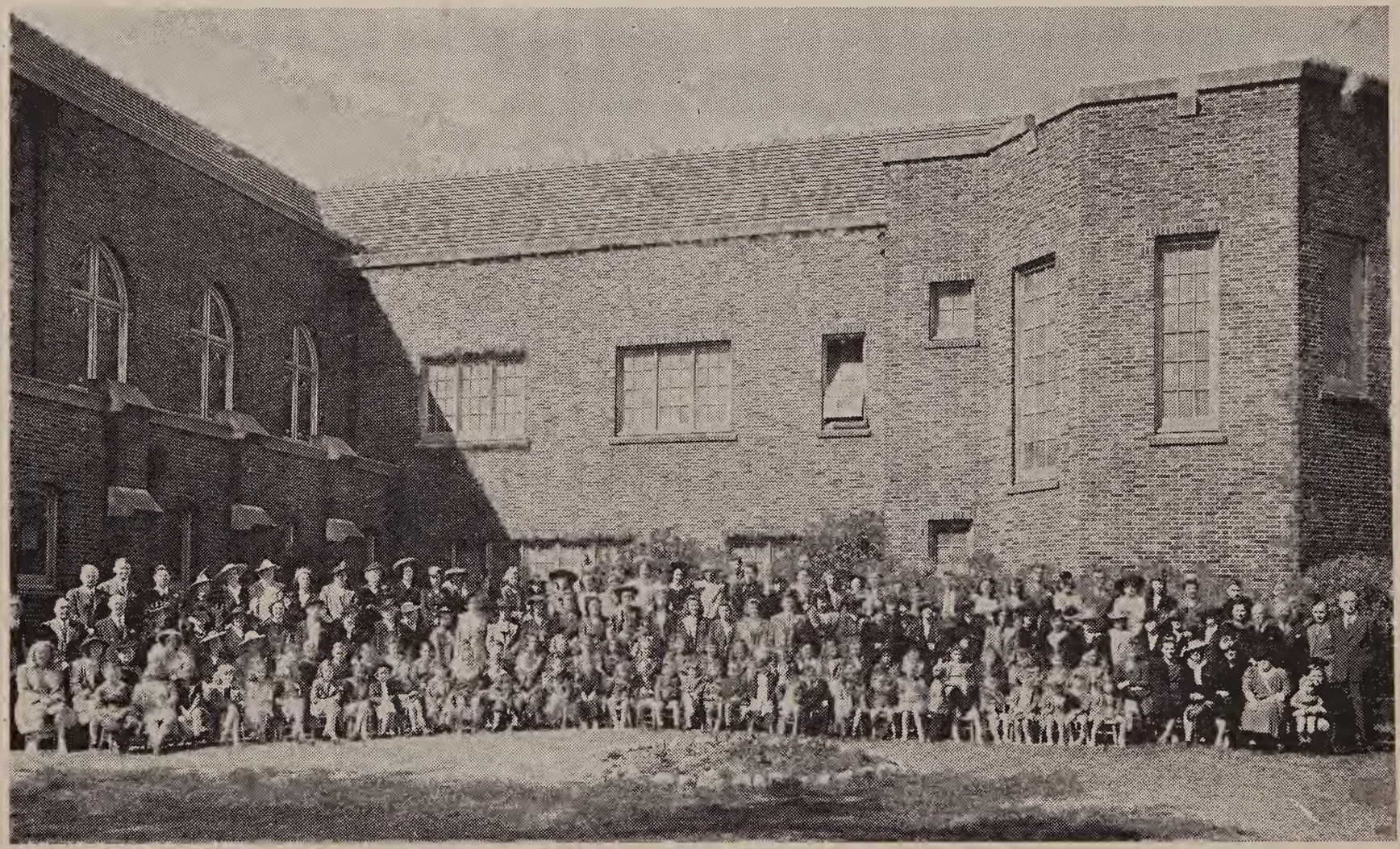
Palmgren, G. I. G.
Palmgren, Mrs. G. I. G.
Palmgren, Edw.
Palmgren, Iran

Pearce, Hazel
Pfeiffer, Mrs. H. C.

Ray, Bettie Marguerette

Saffell, C. W.
Schafer, Mrs. Pearl
Sharp, Nellie B.

Tonahill, J. E.
Tonahill, Mrs. J. E.
Walker, Alvin
Weatherby, Chas.
Welp, Henry
Welp, Mrs. Henry
Welp, Willie
Winchester, Mrs. Frances
Woodard, Miss J. Coe



NAPOLEON AVENUE METHODIST CHURCH SCHOOL AS OF MARCH 22, 1942

OTHER RELATED CHURCHES

As the history of several other Methodist churches is closely interwoven with that of the Napoleon Avenue Methodist church, a brief sketch of these other churches is presented herewith.

For the sake of historical accuracy it should be noted that the Napoleon Avenue Methodist church was founded and continued for the greater part of its one hundred years as a "Northern," or Methodist Episcopal church. The Third German Methodist Episcopal church (later absorbed by the Second M. E. South, church), the St. Charles Avenue (Ames) Methodist Episcopal church, the Eighth Street Methodist church, and the Church of the Redeemer were all, until unification was accomplished, "Northern" or Methodist Episcopal churches. For at least a generation past this line of demarcation had almost disappeared, at least for all practical purposes, and ministers and members mingled freely with the predominant "Southern" or M. E. South, churches. Fortunately this dividing line has now been officially eliminated and all are Methodist churches.

THE SECOND METHODIST CHURCH

The Methodists in downtown New Orleans were first organized in 1840, in what was known as the Spain Street Mission. The Rev. W. H. Watkins was the first pastor and within two years, by 1842, he had built a church on the corner of Dauphine and Piety Streets. This church having been destroyed by fire, a new two-story brick church was built in 1854, on the corner of Enghien and Moreau Streets, now Chartres and Almonaster. It was known as the Moreau Street church. The Rev. J. A. Ivy was pastor. As slavery still prevailed, many Negroes belonging to members of the church were seated in the gallery and worshipped with their masters. During the yel-

THE SECOND METHODIST CHURCH

low fever epidemic the Rev. Tiff Foster served the people heroically, but died of the fever in 1878 (at the age of 28), as did his successor, S. H. Schroeder, Jan. 5, 1879.

A little later, in 1847, Carl Bremer began preaching to the Germans in that part of the city, and built a church which he lived to see dedicated in 1847. He died soon thereafter, and was succeeded by William Tostrick, who died of cholera the same year. John Pauli came in 1849, and J. M. Hofer in 1853. The church was known as the Second German M. E. church, South, and later as the Craps Street (Burgundy) church. All Methodist churches contributed to the building costs of a new and better brick church, erected in 1860, at 2527 Burgundy Street. Among the German pastors who served this church were: Jacob Ueber, J. B. A. Ahrens, J. A. G. Rabe, J. Blanz, J. Krauter, C. A. Grothe, Wm. Lieser, J. Merkel, Wm. Schule, J. B. A. Ahrens and Henry Ahrens.

As the Moreau Street and the Craps Street churches were close together and the need for a German church had ceased, they decided to combine their efforts in December, 1898, and use the former German church as their house of worship. In 1906 they decided to return to the original name of the German group: Second Methodist Episcopal Church, South. The Rev. B. Wright was the first pastor of the united church.

The present church was opened for services June 16, 1907, during the pastorate of the Rev. A. L. Townsley. His successors have been: Floyd Vaughn, J. A. Alford, Sidney Seegers, Hugh Jamieson, A. M. Serex, Larry Armstrong, Ira W. Flowers, Jolly B. Harper, A. W. Townsend, Jr., Harry A. Rickey, William E. Trice and T. F. King. A fitting centennial celebration was observed from September 27 to October 6, 1940. The present membership is 300, among them being descendants of members of the former Second and Third German Methodist churches.

THIRD GERMAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

At the session of the Louisiana Conference, M. E. Church, on January 7, 1874, the Rev. J. L. J. Barth, a young preacher on trial and son of the Rev. Philip Barth, was appointed to the German City Mission. At first he conducted services in the home of Jacob Ueber, 658 North Rampart Street. On July 23, 1874, a house and lot on North Rampart Street, between Press and St. Ferdinand Streets were purchased for $1,450. The house was sold and a church was erected, which was dedicated November 29, 1874. For about twenty years this church, with its pastors and members, did a useful piece of work in that part of the city, but as other Protestant churches were covering nearly the same field it was thought wise to discontinue this church as a separate agency. In the Memorial volume of the Southern German Conference the author records with a note of sadness: "Finally, we must speak of the Third German M. E. church in New Orleans. Faithful pastors served here and reported as many as 42 members. All kinds of contributing circumstances caused this work to be abandoned."

In the records of the Quarterly Conference from 1879 to 1900, the following names occur as members of the Quarterly Conference: Henry Ueber, Secretary; Henry Knieper, S. S. Superintendent; Messrs Schmidt, Mueller and Plaswirth; and Chris Feldkirchner. The last minutes of a quarterly conference are dated November 1, 1894. The congregation then numbered 45, the Sunday School 65, and the minister's salary of $700 was paid in full.

A member of this church, Miss Amalia Plaswirth, became the wife of the Rev. J. A. Traeger.

The ministers who served the Third German M. E. church were as follows, the date being that of the appointing conference:

January 7, 1874—J. L. J. Barth.
January 6, 1875—J. J. Kienle.
November 28, 1878—Daniel Matthaei.
December 4, 1882—W. H. Traeger, and J. A. Traeger, Assistant.
December 15, 1884—Henry Hofman.
December 6, 1886—J. A. Traeger.
November 28, 1892—Herman Schmalz.
November 22, 1894—Daniel Matthaei.
November 29, 1899—John Streit.

EIGHTH STREET METHODIST CHURCH

In December, 1870, the Rev. Philip Barth, then pastor of the Soraparu M. E. Church, South, finding himself out of harmony with the extreme Southern political viewpoint of Southern Methodism, left that church with about 30 members, and on December 22, 1870, organized the Second German M. E. church. A Sunday School had been in progress for some months, of which the Rev. Mr. Barth's son, J. L. J. Barth, was superintendent. The church services were at first held in the old Live Oak School building, but on December 23, 1870, three lots were bought on the corner of Eighth and Laurel Streets. On January 15, 1872, the contract was let for a church building which was completed and occupied the same year. The building committee was composed of the Rev. Mr. Barth and Messrs. Danner and Welp, Mr. C. Wunderberg advancing the money for the building against the notes of the Board of Ttrustees. Because of the Franco-Prussian war and the Chicago fire, collections for this church in the North and East did not prove very fruitful, financially speaking. In 1885 a parsonage was built and on December 20, 1909, the name of the church was changed to: "Eighth Street Methodist Episcopal Church."

During the pastorate of the Rev. A. A. Leifeste, in 1911, the church was remodeled and enlarged and the

THE EIGHTH STREET METHODIST CHURCH

beautiful new church was dedicated the same year, the Rev. W. A. Moers preaching the dedicatory sermon, the Rev. E. F. Schuessler and the Franklin Street church joining in the festivities. By "a penny a day" plan, used by the Sunday School, the sum of $700 was realized for the building fund. The church is known for its varied activities and for its loyalty and esprit de corps. The Golden Jubilee was fittingly observed during the ministry of the Rev. H. W. Bahler. The roster of pastors is as follows, the date being that of the conference session at which the appointment was made:

December 22, 1870—Philip Barth.
January 8, 1873—J. L. J. Barth.
November 29, 1877—J. J. Kienle.
November 25, 1880—W. H. Traeger.
November 24, 1881—J. A. Traeger, Supply.
November 30, 1882—W. H. Traeger.
December 6, 1883—J. A. Traeger.
December 15, 1884—Carl Schuler.
December 4, 1887—R. Brueck.
January 31, 1889—J. A. Traeger.
November 28, 1892—Herman Schmalz.
November 29, 1897—John Streit.
December 2, 1900—J. C. Groth.
November 27, 1904—E. F. Schuessler.
December 6, 1908—A. A. Leifeste.
December 3, 1916—H. M. Hopkins.
November 4, 1920—H. W. Bahler.
October 29, 1924—Ben Behrens.
December 4, 1929—Wm. B. Van Valkenburg.
December 7, 1930—Robert R. Weldon.
December 10, 1933—W. H. Bengtson, until January 15, 1941.
January 15, 1941—James E. Reaves.

The present membership of the Eighth Street Methodist church is 329, and the Sunday School enrollment is 259. During the years 1939 to January 15, 1941, the Rev.

Mr. Bengtson was also pastor of the Felicity Street Methodist church. This church, nearly a hundred years old, was at one time a very strong and prominent M. E. South, church, served by the leading pastors of the conference. Proximity to the First church and removal of many members to other parts of the city have reduced its numbers to a considerable extent. After the removal of the Rev. Mr. Bengtson from the city the church was served by the Reverends Van Valkenburg and Reaves, until September, 1941, when the present pastor was installed, the Rev. Wyatt D. Boddie.

CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER, Italian

The Italian Mission was begun January 26, 1888. The first pastor was the Rev. J. B. Giambruno, who, with a recent convert from the Roman Catholic church, Anthony Palmisano, served the church for 8 years. Joseph Vitale came in January, 1896. He reported 37 members and a church property valued at $12,000. Bishop W. P. Thirkield was instrumental in securing an appropriation from the Board of Church Extension and in selecting the design for a dignified small church. The Rev. Mr. Vitale remained until 1900, when Anthony Palmisano again took charge of the mission as a local preacher, as he did several times subsequently. The present membership is 155, and the value of the church is reported at $7,000, with parsonage property valued at $3,500. In recent years the mayor of the city, the Hon. Robert Maestri, with the aid of the Public Works Administration, made improvements on the property valued at $2,000. The present pastor, the Rev. Philip Pallotta, has been in charge of the church since 1927. The morning and evening services are in English; the vesper services at 5 p. m. are in Italian. For a number of years the W. H. M. S., of the M. E. church, conducted a Kindergarten in the parsonage building, which was attended by about sixty children of various nationalities and religions, whose mothers were employed

THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER

away from home. This center has now been discontinued. Other pastors were: Amadeo Riggio, 1905; Gaetano Vitale, 1907; Francisco Zito, 1909; Enzo Stavio, 1914; Joseph Sanno (Supply), 1916.

The Church of the Redeemer was built in 1914, by H. F. Hinrichs and Son. It is located on Esplanade Avenue at Chartres Street, at the lower edge of the Vieux Carre, in the midst of a large population, in which the Italian, French, Spanish, and other foreign languages alternate with the English. It is a difficult field and there are but few Protestant churches in this part of the city. The minister and members are striving valiantly, however, to keep the light of religion burning brightly for the welfare of that community. Several members of the former St. Charles Avenue M. E. church are staunch workers in the Church of the Redeemer.

Diagonally across Esplanade Avenue from this church is the Federal Prison for short term prisoners. For several years the Rev. Mr. Pallotta has conducted religious services in the prison one Sunday each month, and recently has been authorized to do pastoral work among such prisoners as request it on two days each week. His services have been very acceptable to the prisoners as well as to the warden.

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